

Blocking of budget rebate sharpens conflict with EEC

By Ian Murray in Strasbourg and Anthony Bevins in London

To the impotent fury of all British Euro-MPs, the European Parliament in Strasbourg yesterday voted stolidly to block payment of rebates due to Britain and West Germany...

British MEPs reacted angrily. "The Parliament has shown a staggering display of political insensitivity and discrimination", Mr Neil Balfour told the assembly...

The Conservative group had gone into the session trying hard to be conciliatory. Most members abstained when Mrs Castle's resolution to reject the entire budget was put...

In London Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, sharpened the threat that Britain might withhold payments from the Community if the £457m rebate was not paid by the end of March...

That support was being withdrawn "with total justification and real anger", Mr Balfour, the Conservative spokesman on budgetary affairs, has been criticized in the past for his over-conciliatory approach...

When the vote to freeze the British money was taken, however, Conservatives and Labour members voted together, with four Danes, three French and one West German, in honour of the promise to pay.

Mrs Thatcher told the Commons, in reply to a challenge from Mr Neil Kinnock, that she had been "greatly disappointed" by the European Parliament vote earlier in the day to block the repayment...

Not to be outdone in the invective, Mrs Barbara Castle, the leader of the Labour group, described the Parliament's vote as "petty and hypocritical". The British were not responsible for the failure at Athens, she said, yet they alone were being asked to pay for it.

An attempt by the Conservatives to reject the entire budget failed by 241 votes to 111. In consequence, the group voted in protest against every other part of the budget.

The rebate due to Britain, and the £91m for West Germany, were agreed during the Stuttgart summit last June as net payments in recognition of the fact that both countries were paying more than their proper share of the cost of running the Community.

"I am quite hopeful that in the end it is not a bad day's work", he said. "It may tend to speed up the decision - which we have been seeking for so long."

This stung Mrs Castle to complain that the Conservatives were voting against money which was earmarked to help create jobs in Britain. "They sat there like sulky little boys who have lost a cricket match and who then say 'I have taken away my bat'."

Lawson is foiled on power price

Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, has again failed to secure a 3 per cent rise in the price of electricity. The Cabinet decided not to take legal powers to direct the Electricity Council to increase prices, but a 2 per cent rise is likely.

NGA decides to halt mass pickets

Leaders of the National Graphical Association (NGA) decided last night that there will be no return to industrial action in the six-month-old dispute with Mr Eddie Shah's Messenger Group newspapers and no more mass picketing of the plant at Warrington, Cheshire.

Conveyance outlet for banks

Banks and building societies will be able to offer conveyancing services in competition with solicitors' firms under government legislation to be introduced by the Commons today by Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Solicitor General.

Pound rises

Sterling rose to 1,422.5 against the dollar, up 53 points, as West Germany's central bank again intervened heavily on foreign exchange markets.

Nanny demand

The prosecution at the Italian trial of the Scottish nanny, Carol Compton, demanded a seven-year jail term for arson and attempted murder.

Three miners trapped by tons of rock

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Time please

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Hard to swallow

Mr Edwin Meece, the White House counsellor, has caused a political storm by making derogatory remarks about America's hungry.

£170m bid

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Clash of Soviet titans draws near

Gary Kasparov, the handsome young prodigy with the looks to fire a gymnast's crush and the memory of a computer, is within an ace of cosaring that next year's final of the world chess championships will be a clash of Soviet titans.



All clear: A London policeman inspects a briefcase blown open by bomb experts outside the Hilton Hotel, Park Lane, yesterday. There was traffic chaos after the object was spotted and the area cleared.

Why Nato might use bomb first

From Nicholas Ashford Washington

General Bernard Rogers, Supreme Allied Commander in Europe, has given a warning that Nato would be forced to escalate "fairly quickly" to the first use of nuclear weapons in the event of a large-scale attack by Soviet conventional forces in Europe.

Although he did not specify how soon after such an attack he would have to ask Nato leaders to authorize the release of nuclear weapons, he emphasized that the alliance did not have adequate sustainability, manpower, ammunition and prepositioned reserves in contain a Soviet conventional attack "except for a very short time."

General Rogers, who has been Nato's commander since 1979, is in the United States to propagate what has now become a well-worn theme of his - the need for the 16-nation alliance to increase its defence spending, particularly on building up its conventional forces.

An improvement in Nato's conventional capacity would enhance the alliance's deterrence capability and raise the nuclear threshold, he told a group of foreign journalists. But it would inevitably involve some sacrifices - about \$11 (£7.55) a year for every man, woman and child living in Nato countries.

"The people have to be convinced that there is a threat to their freedom and have to be willing to make this additional sacrifice," he declared.

General Rogers went out of his way to assure Europeans that the new Pershing and cruise missiles now being deployed in West Germany, Britain and Italy could not cause a nuclear war by accident or miscalculation.

He said the weapons would not even become nuclear until he received a special code from the US President and that code had been dialled into the warhead.

The only way he could obtain that code would be to go through the normal three-part release procedures laid down by Nato headquarters as well as in each of the 16 capitals with an early warning message saying that it might be necessary to use nuclear weapons.

This would be followed by a warning message containing information about possible targets and specifying the countries from which Nato's short and medium-range missiles would be launched.

Finally there would have to be a release message which would provide him with the codes for the warheads on the various types of weapons to be used in a nuclear strike.

"Until I get those codes I don't have a nuclear weapon," he explained. "I've got a warhead that is capable of becoming a nuclear warhead, but we must use the codes to enable it to be that."

US warship blasts Lebanese militias

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

Less than an hour after the US marines in Beirut had come under fierce attack by mortars and heavy artillery yesterday evening, the battleship New Jersey began to bombard Shia Muslim and Druze militia positions in the hills around the base.

It was the second barrage by the vessel in 36 hours. The New Jersey fired only its 5-in artillery, but the guns and shell explosions could be heard across Beirut as shock waves rumbled over the city.

There had been serious fighting round the Marine compound, at the airport during the day when Lebanese troops and Shia Muslim guerrillas had fought artillery battles not far from the British Army headquarters in the suburb of Hadeth. At least one shell landed scarcely 50 yards from the British base.

Earlier a French soldier was killed by artillery fire probably directed from the Chouf mountains. Another French paratrooper was killed in the morning, when gunmen in a car shot him in the back at close range as he emptied a rubbish bin outside his regimental headquarters. This is clearly going to be a pattern of attack that will continue. Late in the afternoon a French patrol was attacked: three men were wounded.

Elsewhere in Lebanon yesterday, the Israelis, with tanks, armoured troop carriers and air cover, staged a mass evacuation of the Christians from Deir el-

Two ways to censor war reports

By Rodney Cowton Defence Correspondent

A call for government departments to prepare plans so that a "discretionary" system of censorship could be introduced if Britain again became involved in a war is contained in the report of a study group published yesterday.

General Sir Hugh Beach, chairman of the group studying the protection of military information, said that if there was another war a system of censorship would be necessary, and would be demanded.

The report criticizes the censorship system during the Falklands conflict. General Beach said that in any future war a system would work better if there had been advance preparation.

The groups suggests two forms of censorship which would operate in parallel. There would be a discretionary system in the United Kingdom with editors being able, but not obliged, to refer material which might be militarily damaging to the censor.

If they published without reference to the censor they would be open to prosecution if the material contravened rules on what could or could not be published. Report, page 4. Leading article, page 15.

Advertisement for Graham's 1978 Port wine, featuring a bottle and the text 'The Port of Kings' and 'GRAHAM'S Late Bottled Vintage 1978 PORT OPORTO'.

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Kasparov, born 20 years ago with the name of Weinstein in the Soviet "deep south" republic of Azerbaijan, seemed only draw his next and eleventh game with the ailing Viktor Korchnoi at the Great Eastern Hotel in London to wipe the mercurial defector from the board.

The Government will oppose Mr Mitchell's Bill, which it regards as unsatisfactory, and it appeared last night that Conservative MPs would be sufficiently satisfied with the promise of action to be dissuaded from backing it.

Elsewhere in Lebanon yesterday, the Israelis, with tanks, armoured troop carriers and air cover, staged a mass evacuation of the Christians from Deir el-

The men were in a tunnel 16ft high and 10ft wide constructing an access road for a new coal face at the colliery when the rock fell.

Korchnoi, with a reputation for fighting back from the tightest of corners, has left his life-saving rally perilously late.

Victory for Kasparov will delight the Soviet chess establishment, which has wished upon Korchnoi the status of an unperson since he decamped to Switzerland in 1976.

As for Korchnoi, he was more or less done for when he lost to Karpov in 1981. He no longer has the incentive of trying to get his family out of the Soviet Union, and that has seemed to drain him of much of his energy.

A ventilation tube runs into the tunnel and National Coal Board experts said air was getting through.

The trapped men are Mr Ian Johnson, aged 38, married with a son, of Southy Close, Forest Town, Mansfield; Mr Peter Williams, aged 42, married with two children, of Sycamore Road, Mansfield Woodhouse; and Mr Peter Watts, aged 33, married with three children, of Abbots Croft, Mansfield.

It is the latest published world chess ratings. Karpov leads Kasparov by 2,710 to 2,690, but a brilliant performance by the young star at a tournament in Yugoslavia in September, where all the world's top players with the notable exception of Karpov turned up to be beaten by him, may well have

put him in first place when the next ratings appear in January. In the present match Korchnoi's sole win was in the first game he lost three and drawn six. Grandmasters observing the struggle have been unimpressed by the play of either man.

Table with 2 columns: Home News, Overseas, Sports, Arts, Business, Church, Court, Crossword, Diary, Law Report. Values range from 2-6 to 15.

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staged a remarkable comeback at the age of 62. The betting on that outcome is firmly in favour of Kasparov as the man to meet the reigning Soviet world champion, Anatoly Karpov, who has twice beaten off challenges from Korchnoi for his crown. There the odds become less certain.

Grandmaster Joe Spielmann: "Kasparov could not get himself together at all at first, but since Korchnoi's disaster in the sixth game Gary has turned from a tortured dog to an unscathed lion. He has learnt to

THE TIMES TOMORROW

If music... Bernard Levin suffers assault at the hands of Anton Webern - and hits back.

Be the food... Eat, drink - and have a beautiful table. Sir Roy Strong considers the epergne and other adornments.



Of love... Sir John Summerson reflects on the architecture of the Thirties and wonders why some people love it so much.

Play on... Why London is swinging again.

Give me... The beauty of California and the romance of Hawaii.

Excess... Attempts to outlaw video nasties are welcome, but parliamentarians should beware of going too far.

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Jenkin questions value of local democracy in leaked note to Cabinet

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, is questioning the value of local democracy as part of his sustained campaign to curb the powers of high-spending councils.

A confidential memorandum circulated to Cabinet colleagues says: "Local authorities are responsible to local people through the ballot box for the way they carry out their statutory responsibilities."

But it then adds that there are "major limitations" to the accountability of councillors to their ratepayers and their electorate.

The memorandum states that non-domestic ratepayers contribute nearly 60 per cent of the rates - at £6,000m, the largest single tax on business in England - while industry and commerce have no direct voting influence.

In the last financial year, only 48 per cent of local authorities' net revenue expenditure was met by ratepayers and "only 22 per cent of net rate fund revenue expenditure is financed by domestic rates, before rates".

The memorandum concludes: "Only about 35 per cent of those eligible to vote in local elections pay full rates."

"Thirty per cent of domestic ratepayers are eligible for full or partial rebates."

Dr John Cunningham, the shadow spokesman who released the document, said last night: "This does actually imply that for a small price you can get rid of local democracy."

In a note to be delivered to all Labour MPs today, Dr Cunningham sets the theme for the

opposition to next week's Bill on rate-capping when he says: "Local democratic freedom and choice is being replaced by bureaucratic dictatorship."

Mr Jenkin's memorandum makes no pretence about the Government's attitude to local democracy. It says: "Ours is a unitary and not a federal state. All the local powers of local authorities, including the power to raise rates, are derived from Parliament. Local mandates cannot set aside national policies."

It also says that the Government has a right to demand a response from local authorities to its programme for national economic recovery. "Where that response is not forthcoming, the Government has no alternative but to act through Parliament to safeguard the policies on which it was elected."

County councils chosen for abolition by ministers claimed yesterday that the latest Government grants had set them difficult targets which were meant to justify extra Conservative changes of overspending (Our Local Government Correspondent writes).

It also became clear that a complicated loophole had allowed some smaller authorities, mostly Conservative, to emerge with more scope for spending than had been expected.

Mr Roy Thwaites, Labour leader of South Yorkshire county council, said that services could be kept at existing levels only by raising the county rate by about 40 per cent next year.

Mr Ray O'Brien, Merseyside's chief executive, said: "We

had originally expected about £86m in government grants, but the Government's announcement means that we lose every single penny of that."

One of the least critical reactions to the Government's figures came from the Conservative-led Association of District Councils.

The highest increase goes to East Cambridgeshire district council, where the new target will be almost 49 per cent higher than this year's budget. Slough, Wansdyke in Avon, Colchester, South Oxfordshire, and Tandridge and Spelthorne, in Surrey, have won rises of well above 10 per cent.

Most of the mainly Conservative boroughs around London have lost significant amounts of rate support grant, including the Prime Minister's own borough of Barnet.

THE GAINERS

Councils making significant gains in rate support grant	£m
Cleveland (Lab)	1
Northants (NOCP)	1
GLC (Lab)	2
GLC (Lab)	2
West Midlands (Lab)	3
West Yorks	3

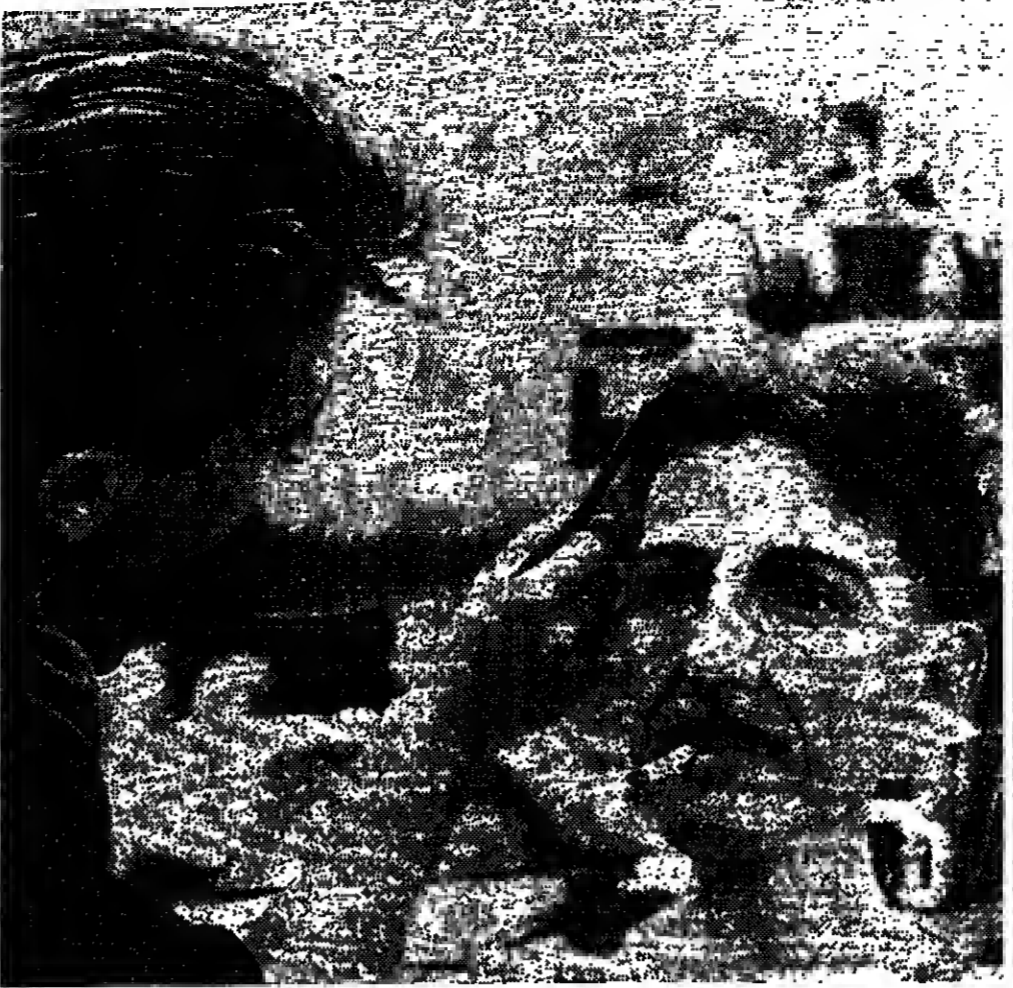
THE LOSERS

Councils suffering significant cuts in rate support grants	£m
Avon (Lab)	-10
North Yorks (C)	-6
London	-4
Kensington and Chelsea (C)	-4
Tower Hamlets (Lab)	-3
Wandsworth (C)	-3
Barnet (C)	-3
Hillingdon (C)	-3
Richmond (Lab)	-3
Waltham Forest (C)	-2
Metropolitan	-1
Merseyside (Lab)	-1
Liverpool	-1
Gateshead (Lab)	-1
Greater London	-1

Councils feeling the pinch (all Labour)

Amount a council needs to save to reach government target	£m
Avon	7
Humberdale	4.5
Hackney	4.5
Islington	4.5
Lambeth	6
Southwark	6
Brent	7
Haringey	7
Newham	7
GLA	20
Liverpool	0.3
Sheffield	0.5
Newcastle	0.5
Greater Manchester	10
Merseyside	10
West Midlands	11

Ready for 1984



Finishing touches being applied before George Orwell's wax figure with Big Brother special effects is unveiled at the Madame Tussauds exhibition in London next Wednesday. Tim Sale, the hair and colouring artist, has added the hair strand by strand (Photograph: Bill Warhurst)

Foetuses 'used in cosmetic research'

By Thomson Press
Medical Reporter

Allegations that experiments are carried out in some European countries on live human foetuses for such reasons as cosmetics research are to be investigated by a committee of the European Parliament.

Mrs Barbara Mills, for the prosecution said that a postal sorter at Istington, who became suspicious of the package because of the childish writing on it, alerted the police, and explosives experts defused the pack.

The boy, from Tottenham, pleaded not guilty to three charges of making an explosive device and sending it through the post to Mrs Thatcher.

The trial was adjourned until today.

Boy faces Thatcher bomb charges

A north London schoolboy aged 14 who told Scotland Yard anti-terrorist branch detectives that he learnt of bomb making in his class, was accused at the Central Criminal Court yesterday of sending an explosive packet to Mrs Margaret Thatcher at 10 Downing Street.

Mrs Barbara Mills, for the prosecution said that a postal sorter at Istington, who became suspicious of the package because of the childish writing on it, alerted the police, and explosives experts defused the pack.

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Falklands team set up

The Rowntree and Cadbury trusts are to fund a new forum of politicians, academics, businessmen and churchmen which was set up yesterday to promote a peaceful solution to the Falklands dispute.

A total of £15,000 is to be given to the new South Atlantic Council, £5,000 each from the Joseph Rowntree Memorial Trust, the Rowntree Charitable Trust and the Cadbury Trust.

The council has been established mainly by Mr Cyril Townsend, Conservative MP for Bexleyheath, and Mr George Foulkes, Labour MP for Carrock, Cumnock and Doon Valley.

Straw burning controls drafted

Strict new controls on straw burning are contained in draft proposals by the Home Office to be sent to local authorities next month.

They include a limit on the area that can be burnt at any one time of six hectares (about 15 acres); firebreaks at least 25 metres wide; the presence of two trained supervisors at every burning; and a requirement to till all ash into the soil within 36 hours.

Four on charity fraud charges

Four men appeared in court yesterday accused of conspiracy to obtain money by deception from the charity Children with Cancer.

The men, who are all in their 40s, are Mr Alan Croxall, a former trustee of the charity, and three other men. They are charged with conspiring to obtain money by deception from the charity.

Body identified

Murder squad detectives will reveal today the name of the young woman found strangled on the Duke of Marlborough's estate at Stonesfield, Oxfordshire who is believed to be a Finnish tourist aged 23.

Explosion charges

Two youths aged 16 and another aged 17 are to appear before Oxford magistrates today charged with causing criminal damage with intent to endanger life after the explosion which damaged a telephone kiosk in the city on Tuesday.

Telecom Bill goes to Lords

By Bill Johnston, Electronics Correspondent

The second Telecommunications Bill has its final reading in the House of Commons yesterday after more than 300 hours of debate and will automatically pass to the House of Lords before becoming law in July.

The Bill is one of the most controversial of recent years as it will denationalize British Telecom, with 51 per cent being sold to the private sector.

It was first introduced in the last parliament but was part of the legislation sacrificed to a June election. When it was introduced the Government had amended it slightly to guarantee British Telecom's supply of telephones, emergency services, and public call boxes.

All three areas had been extremely sensitive politically. MPs on both sides feared that a new British Telecom whose responsibility to shareholders was to maximize profits would not be interested in uneconomic services.

The Bill empowered the Government to sell shares in the new public limited company and ensure that an Office of Telecommunications would police British Telecom.

The final major amendment took place two days ago. Debutante shares in the new corporation would be held by a "Shell" British Telecom as a means of funding its pre-1969 pension fund liability of £1.25bn which is to be paid before 1992 with any outstanding money being paid at 14.5 per cent interest.

The Post Office ceased to be part of the Civil Service in 1969 and the deficiency in the pension fund when it became a nationalized industry was to be made up by the telecommunications arm of the Post Office. This became British Telecom in 1980.

The amendment ensures that the new British Telecom will not carry the debt in case it discouraged investors.

Parliamentary report, page 4

Social workers may end homes action

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

An end to the action which has affected local authority homes for children in care and the elderly for the past three months was in sight last night as residential social workers belonging to the National and Local Government Association (NALGA) voted by a clear majority against increasing it.

A recommendation to call off the action and accept a joint inquiry on pay and hours under an independent chairman is now to be put to a delegate meeting of the 25,000 residential social workers next Thursday.

Both NALGA's local government committee and strike committee are recommending an end to the action and acceptance of the peace formula devised by the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service.

Since September 12 the residential social workers have been banning overtime and admissions to local authority homes for the elderly, children and disabled.

Research institutes to close

By John Young
Agriculture Correspondent

Two research laboratories are to be closed and up to 500 staff made redundant under a new corporate plan made public yesterday by the Agricultural and Food Research Council.

The two institutes, whose closure had been widely predicted, are the Letcombe laboratory, near Wantage, Oxfordshire, and the Weed Research Organization (WRO), at Yarnton, Oxford. Both are owned and funded by the council, and were thus seen as more obvious targets than the research units which are only partially dependent upon government finance.

Dr Ralph Riley, the council's secretary, said yesterday that he realized that the programme would create considerable personal distress for some people.

Dr Riley made it clear that the job losses would not be confined to Letcombe and the WRO and that the "misery" would be spread as evenly as possible.

Paper called to court

A front page headline and picture in an edition of *The Sun* on Wednesday is to be referred to the Attorney General. The paper's legal representatives were ordered to appear before Mr Justice Drake at Birmingham Crown Court yesterday.

The headline concerned the case being heard at the court of a couple accused of ill-treating their baby daughter.

The headline said "Baby was 'blinded by dad'". There was also a picture of the accused father.

Miss Eily Goodall, representing *The Sun*, told the judge the paper took the complaint seriously and did not think it was contempt.

If it was regarded as a contempt, the newspaper was extremely sorry.

Draw brings Kasparov near victory

By Harry Golombek

The vital tenth game in the Korchnoi-Kasparov match of the Acorn Computer world championships, which began in the Eastern Hotel, London, on Wednesday.

Korchnoi, with the white pieces, obtained an impressive position out of the opening and managed for all to break open the position in an attempt to punish Kasparov for his coolly and Korchnoi got into time trouble, from which he cleverly extricated himself.

Tenth game
QGD Tartakower variation
White Korchnoi, Black Kasparov

1 P-Q4	P-Q4	2 Q-R2	P-N3
2 P-Q4	P-Q4	2 R-Q8	O-N1
3 N-B3	P-N3	3 R-Q8	O-N1
4 B-N2	P-N3	3 R-Q8	O-N1
5 B-R4	O-O	27 Q-R1	P-Q4
6 N-B3	P-N3	28 P-P	P-P
7 P-Q4	P-Q4	28 P-P	P-P
8 N-B3	P-N3	28 P-P	P-P
9 B-N2	P-N3	28 P-P	P-P
10 P-Q4	P-Q4	28 P-P	P-P
11 P-Q4	P-Q4	28 P-P	P-P
12 P-Q4	P-Q4	28 P-P	P-P
13 B-N2	P-N3	28 P-P	P-P
14 O-O	P-N3	28 P-P	P-P
15 K-R1	N-B1	28 P-P	P-P
16 B-N2	P-N3	28 P-P	P-P
17 B-N2	P-N3	28 P-P	P-P
18 P-Q4	O-N1	49 Q-R1	B-P4
19 O-O	B-N2	41 K-R1	O-R
20 B-N2	B-N2	42 O-R	O-R
21 B-N2	B-N2	42 O-R	O-R

Collectors join Sotheby's board

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

Sotheby's announced yesterday the addition of some of the world's biggest art collectors, and therefore potential sellers, to its group board as the board met for the first time since the takeover by Mr Alfred Taubman.

Baron Hans Heinrich Thyssen-Bornemisza, who inherited a superb collection housed in Lugano, Switzerland, and has added to it modern masterpieces, heads the list. Then comes Mrs Gordon Getty, of San Francisco, wife of J. Paul Getty's son.

The Far East is represented by Mr Seiji Tsutsumi, chairman of the Seibu group of retail enterprises. Unlike in the West, art exhibitions and sales are run as prestige events by department stores in Japan, with interest in art.

The other new names include Mr Emilio Gioia, of New York, who has property interests, Mr Alec Gregory, of New York, a publisher. Mrs Milton Petric, of New York; Mr Earl E. Smith, of Palm Beach, a former ambassador; and Mr L. H. Wexner, of Columbus, Ohio, a retailer.

Mr Taubman said that he had found advisers who would represent not only different parts of the world but also different parts of the United States. They were people who dealt in the art market of the world, could sense what was happening, and had contacts with customers.

They arrived on Wednesday for committee meetings and to be shown around Sotheby's offices and departments. They were greeted by outstandingly buoyant figures for Sotheby's autumn turnover and annual profits.

Another three or four days of sales to go, Sotheby's had calculated that its autumn turnover was up by more than 70 per cent on last years. That is a figure that needs to be placed in context.

Last autumn was the period when Sotheby's turnover was most affected by the group's financial uncertainties and turnover was much lower than in 1981. Compared to that of 1981, this year's autumn has been more modest although showing a healthy increase of 23 per cent. The "freak" low figure of last year distorts the picture.

On the other hand, the company's profit figures for the financial year ended in August was £5.1m, an improvement on the £4m Sotheby's was predicting at the time Mr Taubman made his bid for the company in the summer.

Clock sells for £42,307

By Our Sale Room Correspondent

Sotheby's have been selling important clocks on both sides of the Atlantic during the past 24 hours. In London yesterday a good example of the great era of British clock making, a silver-mounted ebony spring clock made around 1675 by Joseph Knibb, sold for £24,200 (estimate £20,000-£25,000) to R. A. Lee, the London dealer.

In New York this price was put in the shade. The Polar Star Clock, a Fabergé clock in gold, nephrite and enamel in the form of an eight-pointed compass, sold for \$60,500 (estimate \$30,000-\$40,000) or £42,307.

The clock dates from around 1890 and was designed for use aboard the Russian Imperial Yacht, the Polar Star.

Sotheby's sale of clocks and watches totalled £188,540, with 21 per cent unsold. They also held a London jewel sale which made £397,403 with 14 per cent unsold and a watercolour sale totalling £67,276 with 17 per cent unsold.

PC accused

Constable Thomas Andrews of the Royal Ulster Constabulary yesterday appeared in a Belfast court accused of murdering a Roman Catholic youth four days ago. He was remanded in custody until Monday.

Brittan studies ban on solvent kits

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

The Government has decided against legislation to make solvent abuse by individuals an offence. But ministers are considering whether to make the selling of kits intended for it a crime in England and Wales.

The police and magistrates are among those consulted by the Government. They preferred the provision of expert help and advice to the making of new offences.

Police are to be reminded of existing powers that can be used. The Government is relying on a drive involving health, education, and local government bodies, with shopkeepers, against abuse.

In the Glasgow trial which resulted on Monday in the conviction of two men for selling glue-sniffing kits, the charge was based on Scottish common law, which is more far reaching than English law in that respect.

But Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, in a parliamentary written answer said he was examining the outcome of the case in the light of government proposals for further action against solvent misuse.

The difficulties faced by the Government, apparent at a press conference given yesterday by Mr Patten and Mr David Mellor, Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the Home Office, are:

There are several thousand products freely on sale which, if sniffed and inhaled, can cause injury, and even death, and which are not subject to the same restrictions as those involving health, education, and local government bodies, with shopkeepers, against abuse.

Mr Khalid Raja and Ahmed Raja, the Glasgow shopkeepers, have lodged appeals against their three-year sentences for selling glue sniffing kits to children, imposed by the High Court in Glasgow (our Glasgow Correspondent writes).

Leading article, page 15

Injunction silences royal butler

By Alan Hamilton

Solicitors acting on behalf of Princess Anne have obtained an interim injunction in the High Court restraining the Princess's former butler, Mr Andrew Lightwood, from disclosing details about his royal employment.

Mr Lightwood, aged 23, who had previously worked for four years at Buckingham Palace before a two-month stint at Princess Anne's home at Gatcombe Park, Gloucestershire, fled from his job in October claiming that he had received 14 telephone calls from a man with a strong Irish accent threatening him with death. Gloucestershire police are still investigating.

Mr Lightwood is understood to have been approached by several foreign magazines, but it is believed that no British publication was prepared to negotiate with him. Technically, Mr Lightwood would be in contempt of court if he published confidential revelations anywhere.

They suspect and perhaps with reason, that he subscribes to the principle which most of us believe that no British citizen should be allowed to publish information that nationalized industries should be set financial targets and then allowed the fullest commercial freedom with the least interference.

The day sex tangle MP's troubles began

By Ronald Fox

The troubles of Mr Gerald Bermingham, Labour MP for St Helens South, whose political career reached a crisis last night, began when he was asked to help an unmarried mother experiencing difficulties with her son, then aged 13.

Mr Bermingham and the woman ended up as lovers - and their affair, with its trail of alleged broken promises, culminated last night in a motion of no confidence being put before an emergency meeting of the constituency management committee of the St Helens South Labour Party.

At a national level, no pressure has been put on Mr Bermingham to resign - party leaders saying that he should stay in the seat and carry on drawing his MP's salary while he sorts out his private life.

Uppermost in the minds of party officials in London was the threat of a by-election and a Social Democratic Party onslaught on the St Helens seat spearheaded by Mrs Shirley Williams, who had held the neighbouring Merseyside seat at Crosby.

Mr Bermingham, who has been married twice, has re-



Mr Gerald Bermingham: Political career in crisis.

assistant who met Mr Bermingham in the People's March for Jobs in May, was also having a relationship with the MP. Miss Ball is expecting a baby next month.

Miss Harrison said yesterday that she complained to the Law Society about Mr Bermingham's treatment of her because she felt he had taken advantage of her after she consulted him professionally in July, 1980.

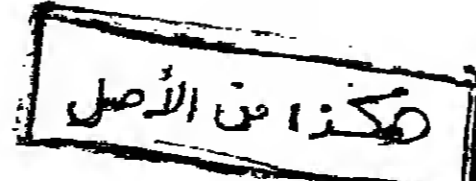
"I was a single parent bringing up one son who was at that time nearly 13 years old," she said.

Various difficulties with her son had come to a head and she was extremely upset and distraught. She sought legal advice and approached Mr Bermingham, who as well as being a solicitor was then Labour councillor on the Sheffield Education Committee.

He appeared to be very supportive and understanding, Miss Harrison said. He found a place at boarding school for her son and care proceedings were averted, the sexual relationship began two months after the first meeting and the affair went on for three years.

She said that the Law Society had replied that a sexual relationship did not come under the heading of unprofessional conduct.

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Kidnap brothers convicted of holding couple in terror for £2m ransom

Two brothers were found guilty at the Central Criminal Court yesterday of kidnapping a young couple and holding them captive for a £2m ransom.

George Panac, aged 30, a driving instructor of Telford Avenue, Streatham, and his brother Anastasi, aged 36, a fish shop proprietor of Dunston Road, Battersea, both south London, will be sentenced today.

They were convicted of kidnapping Mr Emmanuel Xuereb aged 33, a wine merchant, and his wife Maria, 35, from their home at Tressway, Lodge Road, Bromley, Kent, in January, and holding them prisoner for five days at a house in Kemble Road, Croydon.

The brothers were found guilty by the jury's unanimous verdicts after a month-long trial. Both had denied all charges.

A third member of the gang, Donald Gray, aged 27, unemployed, a former boxer, of Raleigh Gardens, Brivion, south London, who pleaded guilty and gave evidence for the Crown, also awaits sentence.

Mr and Mrs Xuereb were kidnapped as they arrived home after a shopping trip and were taken to the Croydon house



George Panac, who demanded £2m ransom

where they were held prisoner, bound, gagged and blindfolded. They were threatened with death while the gang demanded £2m in cash, gold coins and gold bars from the husband's father, Mr Anthony Xuereb, 60, a Hutton Garden diamond merchant.

The kidnappers threatened to cut off Mr Emmanuel Xuereb's fingers and send them to his father one by one until the ransom was paid and threatened to cut off his head and "send it home in a box."

Mrs Xuereb was also sexually assaulted by one of the kidnappers.

Mrs Xuereb was released alone with a ransom note. She remembered some details about the house's location and was

able to locate the address for police, who later stormed the house at dawn. The police had been alerted to the kidnapping and had recorded the calls to Mr Anthony Xuereb.

Mrs Xuereb had determined to do all she could to trap the gang by identifying the kidnap house.

With her bound hands she clawed at the carpet to force the fibres under her nails. Mrs Xuereb hoped that if they were eventually killed the fibres would assist forensic experts and police to trace the kidnappers. She also bit off some of her nails and left them under her mattress as further clues.

As she sat helpless and blindfolded, her husband held captive in another room, she listened to nearby church bells and guessed their distance. She also gauged the direction of trains running close to the house and managed under her blindfold to catch a glimpse of the grey curtains.

When she was released to exert more pressure for the kidnappers' demands she assessed the distance the car travelled and memorised every left and right turn. Her recollection of the details enabled Anti-Terrorist Squad men to locate the house within 12 hours.



Kidnap victims: Mr and Mrs Xuereb, who were held under threat of death (Photograph: Brian Harris)

Universities will try to curb rowdy students

By Lucy Hodges
Education Correspondent

University vice-chancellors sought to reassure Sir Keith Joseph, the Secretary of State for Education, at a private meeting this week that they would do all they could to control rowdy students on campuses but at the same time asked that ministers inform them when they were visiting their institutions.

This exchange on the subject of free speech in universities arose at the routine autumn term meeting between the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals and the Minister at Sir Keith's insistence.

He is understood to be distressed by what he calls "barbarism" on the campuses, such as the recent paint-throwing at Mr Michael Heseltine, the Secretary of State for Defence, at Manchester University and the violent picketing of himself at Warwick.

Manchester University was not informed officially of Mr Heseltine's visit, which took place the day after the announcement that cruise missiles had arrived on British soil, and was supposed to be an informal address to the Conservative Society.

Mr Heseltine was barracked by a large group of students who prevented him from speaking for an hour by blocking a staircase and then heckled him.

The Warwick University incident was more organized. Knowing beforehand that Sir Keith was coming, the students union executive proposed a picket to protest at government cuts of the education service.

One in four motorists drinks and drives

By Michael Bally
Transport Editor

At least one in four motorist drinks and drives; and between the ages of 18 and 34 the proportion is as high as one in three.

That finding from extensive soundings by Harris Research in London and Nottingham, coincides with yesterday's report in *The Times* that one in four drivers tested for alcohol in a pre-Christmas exercise by Sussex police failed the test.

It will be discussed at 10.30pm today in a London Weekend Television programme, "Driving Drunk in London", which commissioned the research.

Questioned by pollsters, 37 per cent of London motorists (48 per cent of those aged between 25 and 34) admitted that they drank and drove occasionally or often. Half of those questioned thought it unlikely that they would be caught.

Road safety experts say that motorists' perception of their chance of being caught is crucial in determining whether they drink and drive. And the research suggests that this is far lower in London than in Nottingham.

Drivers in Nottingham are five times more likely to be breath-tested than in London, according to Home Office figures. Last year the Metropolitan Police carried out 3.3 tests for every 1,000 Londoners. The national average is 4.2, and the police in Nottinghamshire carried out 15.8 to top the national league.

Shoplifting WPC fought to escape

Woman Police Constable Susan Hillier put up a struggle after being caught shoplifting and tried three times to escape from a store detective, Gloucestershire, were told yesterday.

Mr James Coussey, for the prosecution, said Hillier had been on a shoplifting spree.

He said that despite being caught red-handed in Tesco's store, Cheltenham, where she was seen putting steaks and beef into a bag, Hillier protested her innocence to fellow officers.

Hillier, aged 31, of St George's Road, Cheltenham, admitted three charges of stealing food and clothes, worth a total of £35. She had been in the police force for 11 years, including two years as a detective. She resigned from the force on Tuesday.

Hillier was remanded until January 12 for reports.

Valve error caused Sellafield leak

By Ronald Faux

Mr Con Allday, chairman and chief executive of British Nuclear Fuels, admitted yesterday that a misunderstanding between shift managers led to the discharge of a radioactive slick into the Irish Sea five weeks ago.

The incident caused contamination to the beach near the Sellafield formerly Windscale reprocessing plant on the Cumbria coast.

At a press conference at Sellafield Mr Allday said that a valve was turned because a manager had not read a record made in the log book three days earlier. He did not know that high-level radioactivity had not been removed from water in a tank.

The error was a genuine misunderstanding, Mr Allday said although it should not have happened because he was satisfied that the people involved had acted conscientiously and in good faith. No one was to be suspended or dismissed.

"This incident is serious for the company and for the nuclear industry. We must make sure nothing like it happens again," Mr Allday said. "I am sorry it has caused concern and alarm and that we have fallen from the very highest standards I expect. But there is no evidence that anyone has been hurt or that there was a significant hazard to the public."

The Department of the Environment has not yet lifted its warning to the public not to use the beach near Sellafield.

Mr Allday added: "We are confident with a high degree of certainty that it will not happen again because of new procedures including improved record-keeping, but no one can give absolute guarantees."

BBC shelves plan for pay-TV

By David Hewson and Bill Johnstone

The BBC put its satellite broadcasting plans on ice yesterday after deciding that its proposals for a launch in 1986 of a pay television service were unviable.

The decision, at a meeting of the governors, does not rule out the corporation's involvement in later satellite projects, but appears to shelve immediate plans for a two-channel service showing films and entertainment programmes.

A Broadcasting House statement said: "The board recognized the great difficulties which remain to be overcome by the BBC, industry and others in establishing a viable DBS (direct broadcasting by satellite) service, but concluded that the BBC should continue to explore all possibilities which will lead to the setting up of a British DBS system."

United Satellites, the prospective manufacturers of the BBC satellite system, remains convinced that the 1986 deadline for the television satellite launch can be met, despite the BBC's reluctance to sign a full contract.

The management of Uoisat, a consortium of British Aerospace, British Telecom and GEC-Marconi, is nervous about saying anything which might jeopardize the contract. Mr Daniel Grunberg, managing director, said he was disappointed that no contract has been signed.

He said: "I would like them to have signed a long time ago. We recognize all the profound issues that are at stake. The complexities are quite astonishing."

Studies by the BBC on consumer response to the satellite service concluded that 200,000 subscribers would be the minimum needed for launch.

Threat of holiday pub strikes

By Richard Evans

An unprecedented strike which will shut 280 public houses in northern England today could spread throughout Britain during the Christmas and New Year festive period.

The National Association of Licensed House Managers gave unanimous backing yesterday to industrial action planned by managers employed by Pennine Host, the northern arm of a Grand Metropolitan subsidiary, over pay and conditions.

The strike will shut Host's northern public houses today, on the two days before Christmas Day and New Year's Day, and on January 1.

The Host group runs about 1500 public houses.

Mr David Carter, the association's national secretary, said last night many of the elements in Host's pay package would reduce managers' pay.

Video editors' 'high' pay

By David Hewson

The highest paid company director at LWT in 1982 received £54,299. In the same year 233 workers received between £20,000 and £25,000; 113, £25,000 to £30,000; 19, £30,000 to £35,000; eight, £35,000 to £40,000; 17, £40,000 to £45,000 and three received £55,000 to £60,000.

LWT denied that the videotape recorder team shift leader who earned more than £100,000 last year received such high wages because of a local agreement. It said that the payments resulted from a national ITV agreement, though it is understood that no other ITV company has video editors who regularly earn more than £50,000 a year.

Bobby Moore on drink charge

Bobby Moore, the former England football captain, was yesterday charged with a driving offence after a breath test conducted by Bedfordshire police. After a further test at Biggleswade police station, he was charged and bailed to appear in court at a date to be fixed.

Moore, who retired as a player six years ago, and who led England to the World Cup victory in 1966, was appointed chief executive of Southeast United in the summer.



Retreat in time for two Royal Green Jackets.

In the steps of Sir John

Eight men from the 1st Battalion The Royal Green Jackets will spend their Christmas leave in nineteenth-century uniforms, retracing the steps of Sir John Moore's retreat to Corunna in 1808.

The men, led by Captain Charles Blackmore, will leave Sabagen, south-east of Leon, on Christmas Eve and march to the same things and follow the same route as Sir John's division, reaching Corunna, more than 300 miles to the north-west, on January 13.

Sir John safely withdrew his men, who had been in danger of encirclement by Napoleon's army, but was killed in battle on January 16, 1808.

(Photograph: Brian Harris)

Arab cash for Chelsea footballers

By John Lawless

Chelsea Football Club yesterday became the first British club to be sponsored by an Arab backer when Gulf Air announced that it is to inject "a considerable sum" into the second division promotion challenge.

Gulf Air is thought to be paying £150,000 to have its name on the Chelsea shirts for just the remaining half of this season.

Mr Ken Bates, the club chairman, said that it would represent the most lucrative deal in football sponsorship if it is carried through to next season, which may depend on whether Chelsea does indeed climb back to the first division.

British football supporters have only just got used to their game being propped up by cash from Japanese corporations, with Canon sponsoring the League and JVC backing Arsenal.

But the Chelsea coup, completed at the Stamford Bridge ground, with coffee and dates in honour of their teetotal guests, is unique.

The contract calls for Chelsea to send its coaching specialists into the four states, which own the airline: Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates. "And the most promising players will come back to Chelsea to train and, hopefully, to play in the British league", Mr Bates said.

The prospects are favourable for Chelsea getting a renewal of the deal next year. The club is second in the second division, and Gulf Air was one of the world's few airline profit-makers last year, making \$39m.



Arafat to stand for rector post

Mr Yasser Arafat, the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, has agreed to stand as a candidate for rector of Glasgow University next March. Mr Abdul Ibrahim, president of the university's Palestine Action Society, who has campaigned for Mr Arafat's candidacy says that the election campaign will promote the cause of the Palestinian people as part of the negotiated peace in the Middle East.

Quigley remand on bomb charge

Thomas Quigley, aged 28, of Glenalina Road, Belfast, was yesterday remanded in custody for a week at Lambeth Magistrates' Court, south London, accused of conspiring with others to cause explosions likely to endanger life or damage property.

The hearing lasted two minutes.

Shots fired in BR robbery

Masked men fired shots when they held up a security vehicle at Hoo Junction, Lower Shore, near Gravesend, Kent, yesterday and stole £150,000 worth of British Rail wages.

British Rail staff gave chase in a car but eventually lost the robbers' van, which was later found abandoned at Strood, near Rochester.

Scots arrest

Mr Ian Howell, aged 28, who was being sought for questioning about the death of Jennifer Wright, whose body was found in a hostel in Oxford last week, was arrested near Inverness late on Wednesday.

Christmas lights

Mrs Mary Scotney, aged 76, switched a thousand Christmas lights on yesterday at her home and garden to Nene Parade, at March, Cambridgeshire, where the centrepiece is a 30ft high tree.

Schoolboy takes driving test man to court

Mr Andrew Rowland, aged 18, failed his driving test last week because of undue hesitancy. Torquay Magistrates' Court in Devon was told yesterday. But the examiner, Mr Barry James, who was the hesitant one, magistrates were told.

Mr James did not signal for Mr Rowland to do his emergency stop until nine minutes after he had first warned him it would be coming.

Mr Rowland, who is studying for his A levels at Torquay Grammar School, took Mr James to court to a rare case to have the test deemed to have been conducted improperly. But the magistrates found in Mr James' favour and ordered Mr Rowland to pay £30 costs.

Private health insurance subscriptions to rise

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Sharp increases in private health insurance are on the way from January for some subscribers to Private Patients Plan (PPP), the second largest of the health insurance groups.

Subscriptions will rise to a level about 15 per cent higher than a year ago for many individual subscribers, with increases ranging from 7.5 per cent to 35 per cent on last January.

The rise for members in small company-paid schemes will be between 26 per cent and 34 per cent on last January's rates. But the increases in some of PPP's large voluntary paid groups will be far smaller.

The increases come as Bupa has announced that its subscriptions will go up by between only 4 per cent and 10 per cent in January on the rates a year ago.

But the net effect of the changes is to leave the two groups, which between them share most of the market, broadly competitive.

Direct comparisons between subscription rates are complicated by differences in terms and conditions, but Bupa's individual subscription for a married man aged 30 to 49 with two children, providing cover for private and teaching hospitals outside London, will now be £434 a year.

PPP's equivalent will be £381 to the 30 to 39 age group, but £440 for those aged 45 to 49.

Which house with central heating is saving £100 a year?

Although you can't see from the outside, it's the one with cavity wall and loft insulation.

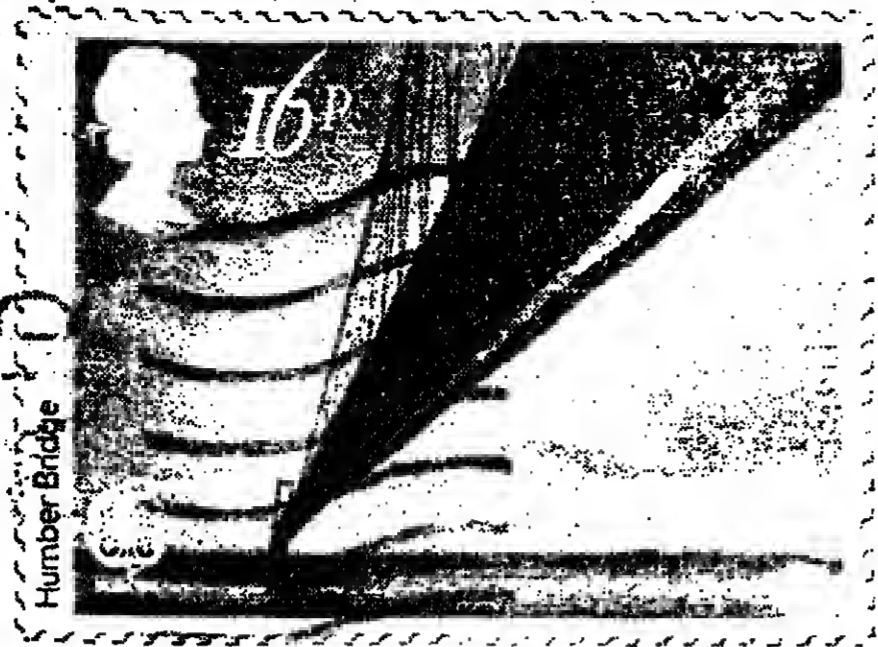
For full details on these and many other ways of insulating your home and saving money, simply send for our free booklet.

To: Energy Efficiency Office, P.O. Box 702, London SW20 8SZ. Please send a free copy of 'Make the most of your heating.'

Name _____

Address _____

ENERGY EFFICIENCY OFFICE



Trafalgar House have just announced another record year. Turnover up 33% to £1.4b. Profits up 20% to £79m. Dividends up 18% to £21m.

But this year, financial analysts have not been alone in anticipating such impressive results.

Philatelists also had more than an inkling of what was going to come.

Because in May the Post Office issued three special stamps under the title "British Engineering Achievements."

Two out of the three featured works in which Trafalgar House companies have been deeply involved.

Our Cleveland Bridge and Engineering Company and Redpath Dorman Long were members of the consortium responsible for the Humber Bridge, the longest single span bridge in the world.

How many other companies can put their results on the outside of the envelope?

And Cleveland also constructed and installed the gates and gate arms for the Thames Flood Barrier.

There were of course, several other significant Trafalgar House events this year which the Post Office has not yet celebrated in philatelic form.

For instance, the purchase of two new cruise ships, the Sagafjord and Vistafjord, which make Cunard's cruise fleet now the most luxurious in the world.

The acquisition of a significant stake in the Forties oil field from BP. The completion of the new Stoke Mandeville Hospital by Trollope & Colls. The Ankobra Bridge in Ghana. The Sultan Qaboos University in Oman.

Put together, our year might be the basis for a whole album of stamps. In fact, for twenty years, with almost monotonous regularity, good news has been coming through the letter boxes of Trafalgar House shareholders.

In 1964, our first Annual Report as a public company showed turnover of £446,000 and profits of £86,000.

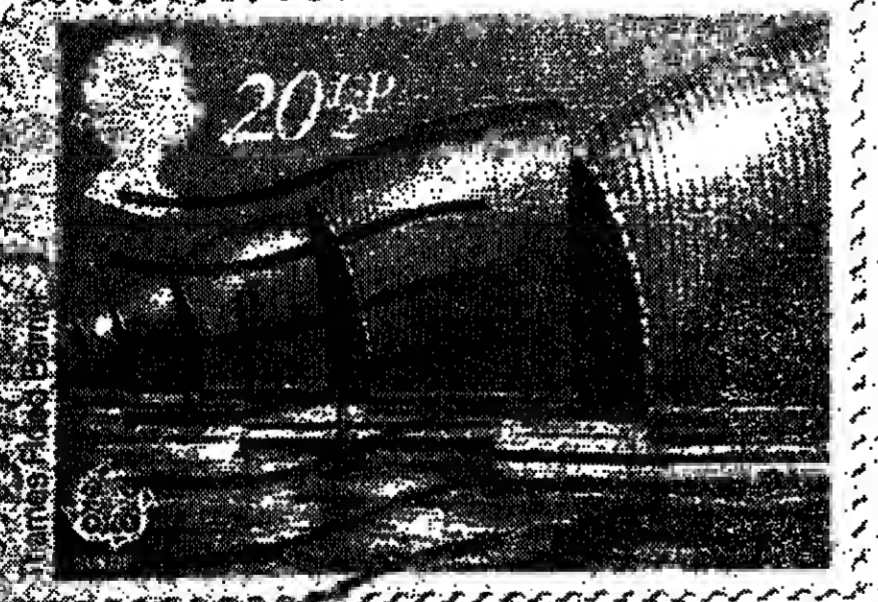
Last year, Trafalgar House earned £500m in overseas sales alone.

You can find out exactly how we've built our business by getting us to send you a copy of our company report.

We will be posting them bearing some very particular stamps. After all, philately is the sincerest form of flattery.

For a copy of our 1983 Report and Accounts, contact The Secretary at 1 Berkeley Street, London W1X6NN

Trafalgar House
PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANY



Guardian is told to surrender cruise missiles document

The Guardian was ordered by a High Court judge in London yesterday to hand over a secret memorandum that could lead to the unmasking of a "mole" in the Government service. The surrender, however, is to be delayed until tonight to allow the newspaper time to appeal.

Judgment in the appeal is expected today. The Guardian assured the High Court, however, that it would obey the court's final order.

Mr Justice Scott rejected arguments by the newspaper's lawyer, Lord Rawlinson of Ewell, QC, that it was entitled to protect anonymous source under the Contempt of Court Act, 1981.

The memorandum, about the delivery of cruise missiles to Greenham Common, was published by the newspaper on October 31.

Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, and Sir Michael Havers, QC, the Attorney General, asked for the document back unaltered so that they could identify the source from markings on it.

The judge said that the newspaper did not contest that the Secretary of State and the Attorney General were the rightful owners of the document. It was also accepted that no damage will be, or has been, suffered by its publication.

The newspaper claimed that under the Contempt Act it would have to reveal its source

only if it was in the interests of justice, national security, or for the prevention of disorder or crime. It claimed that none of those conditions applied.

But the judge said that the Act could not be used to limit the right of an owner to recover property.

Mr Simon Brown, for the Secretary of State and the Attorney General had argued that there was a matter of national security at stake because the leak showed that someone in a high place in the Government service was untrustworthy. He said that "national security required that he be identified and got rid of" the judge said.

It had also been argued that other Governments might be reluctant to share information with Britain until the source was identified, but the judge said he did not think it was self-evident that other Governments might react as described.

The judge said it was a case where "injustice" might be done if he refused to grant the order. Further, if he was wrong on his interpretation of the Contempt Act there would be an arguable case to be tried on the question of security.

In ordering that the document should be handed over he also ordered the newspaper to pay the costs of the hearing.

Law Report, page 9



Marek Zwiefka-Sibley and Emma Lesiecka in London yesterday holding some of the 15,000 cards being sent to Polish refugee children in Austria (Photograph: Bill Warhurst).

Herring quotas agreement rescues Europe's common fisheries policy

From Ian Murray, Brussels

"Blue Europe" is now complete. Fisheries ministers in Brussels have eventually sorted out a six-month wrangle over North Sea herring quotas, which means that the common fisheries policy, signed last January, can at last be made fully operational.

Mr Michael Jopling, the British minister, emerged extremely happy from the meeting when it ended in the middle of Wednesday night. The agreement, he said, was "a triumph for British fishermen". They had been allocated more herring than he had ever hoped for.

The agreement means that next year Britain is to be allowed to catch 24.15 per cent of the 155,000 tonnes of herring which scientific advice suggests would be the proper level to preserve stocks.

Mr Jopling pointed out that over the 16 years up to 1976, when herring fishing had to be banned to save it from extinction in the North Sea, Britain had averaged only 16.7 per cent of total catches.

fish in the future which eventually persuaded Holland and Denmark to accept the herring quotas. According to the agreement, Denmark is given a progressively larger and larger share of the available fish.

At the 250,000 tonne mark - which is considered to be the upper limit at which the fish can be sold for consumption - the Danish share would rise from its present 21.15 per cent level to 35 per cent. The extra Danish fish would be to keep Denmark's fishmeal industry supplied.

Agreement on herring quotas is to last for 20 years, like the rest of the common fisheries policy. But falling stocks of cod and haddock, which make up 50 per cent of Britain's catch, mean that the industry could face a tough time next year.

The Commission wants to reduce the quotas for North Sea haddock by 18 per cent and the quotas for cod by 7 per cent next year. This would cost British fishermen something like £15m over the year.

HERRING CATCH PERCENTAGES

	155,000 tonne quota	Up to 250,000	Over 250,000
W. Germany	13.2	15	17.5
France	13.5	12	8.5
Holland	27.5	27	21.5
Belgium	7.100	(6,000+1)	1
Britain	24.15	22	17.5
Denmark	21.15	22	35

Belgium is assured a minimum tonnage until stocks rise to above the 250,000 mark, when it would receive 1 per cent.

Christians get Peking protection

From Christopher Wren (New York Times)

Dr Robert Runcie, said here that Chinese Christians are enjoying greater safeguards in trying to build a church, but he stopped short of suggesting they have achieved religious freedom.

The Primate, who is about to end a two-week visit to China, told a press conference on Wednesday that his hosts had shown him recent legislation that protected Christians from the persecution they suffered during the Cultural Revolution.

"From this I take it that the official political line is one of broadening through the constitution and the criminal code the possibilities of free religious practice", Runcie said.

It was too early, he said in reply to a question, to tell whether full religious freedom existed. "Certainly I have seen evidence that there are more churches opened, more Bibles available, and I can only assume that is the result of less political pressure against such things."

Children want Marcos to quit

Manila - About 2,000 children yesterday marched through the business district here, demanding the resignation of President Marcos (Keith Dalton writes).

Miss Kristina Aquino aged 12 the daughter of murdered opposition leader Benigno Aquino, led the children. "The only Christmas present I want is for President Marcos to resign," she said.

Mitterrand visit to back Belgrade

From Dossa Trevisan, Belgrade

President Mitterrand began a three-day visit to Yugoslavia yesterday. The aim of the trip, apart from reinforcing trade, economic and political ties, is to demonstrate France's support for Yugoslavia in its long-continued fight between east and west.

M. Mitterrand is accompanied by M. Claude Cheysson, the French Foreign Minister, and three ministers in charge of foreign trade, finance and transport.

Yugoslavia is going through serious economic difficulties and is counting on financial support. Last year France joined other Western countries and the International Monetary Fund in providing a package of financial assistance which eased the burden of debt repayments.

Yugoslavia has succeeded in increasing its exports to countries with convertible currencies and in reducing drastically its balance of payments deficit. Next year it is counting on further financial backing.

The Yugoslav Government will also raise with President Mitterrand its wish to increase its exports to the European Community.



French President M Mitterrand, in a study by Konrad Muller, a West German photographer, in the garden of his house at Latche, south-west France.

Aid groups worried by police Bill

By Peter Evans Home Affairs Correspondent

Voluntary bodies added yesterday to growing concern that the Evidence Bill would allow confidential records and documents to be seized, despite Government undertakings.

The Law Society has already criticized loopholes leaving private legal, medical and journalistic material open to search and seizure.

The National Council for Voluntary Organisations has now urged Mr Leon Brittan, Home Secretary, to revise the Bill at committee stage.

The council has written on behalf of a wide range of voluntary bodies worried that loopholes and ambiguities will give police access to the files.

Faced with that threat, the organizations say they will have to make a "harsh" choice. They could cease recording clients' personal details or withdraw guarantees that such information would be held in confidence.

Mr Nicholas Hinton, its director, says in the letter: "NCVO and a number of other voluntary organizations would prefer to see a simpler procedure, giving clearer protection to the records of voluntary organizations, whether held by paid staff or volunteers."

Alternatively, the council would like amendments to the Bill extending the scope of excluded material and protecting it from seizure.

The standing committee on the Bill yesterday approved Clause 4, which regulates police powers to mount road checks.

The Reyn-Bardt case Why an ancient skull trapped a killer

The woman's skull which led to Peter Reyn-Bardt's confession to the killing of his wife was so well preserved by the Cheshire peat bog in which it had lain for more than 1,500 years that it still contained parts of the brain, hair and ligaments when it was found earlier this year.

Indeed, it was only when the remains were sent to the radiocarbon dating laboratory at Oxford University that the police discovered that it could not have belonged to Reyn-Bardt's wife, Marika, who died in June, 1960.

Because the skull was so well preserved and the structure of the nose matched that in a photograph of the missing wife, the pathologist who first examined it was convinced that it came from Marika.

The skull was found in May by a workman excavating peat for a Somerset mushroom farm about 300 yards from Heathfield Cottage in Wiltshire where Reyn-Bardt killed his wife, probably during an argument over money. When the police were brought in they sent a team of investigators to the mushroom farm to sift through the rest of the peat for further remains.

But the only other item found in that and other searches of the land surrounding Heathfield Cottage was a two-inch long iron pin which could have come from the hair of the skull or a leather working awl. Experts are unsure whether the pin dates from Roman or Saxon times.

Confronted with the discovery of the skull, Reyn-Bardt, who had previously denied killing his wife, confessed and was taken to Heathfield Cottage to point out the exact spot where he had buried her remains. But when a further search proved fruitless, the police decided to send the skull for radio-carbon dating.

How to spot that short measure

By Tony Sanasarg

More than half of public houses may be serving short measures of spirits, a survey of hotels and bars in Merseyside has shown. Trading standards officers bought about 60 drinks and found that more than 35 of them were short-measured.

Although Merseyside County Council prosecuted 12 licensees, who were fined a total of more than £800, officers conceded that most of the violations were probably inadvertent.

Confusion generally arises with non-standard spirits, such as single malt whiskies, fine brandies and the like, which are not connected to Optic measures and therefore require the use of a thimble. Mr Peter Mawdsley, principal investigations officer for Merseyside, says bar staff are often not properly trained in use of the thimble. "The thimble measure should be filled to the top, and if there is any spillage it should fall into the glass. Customers should insist on seeing their drink poured."

The most celebrated short-measure case recently, in which the Savoy Hotel in London admitted selling a short measure of malt whisky in its American bar, also involved a waiter described in court as "a young, inexperienced chap".

Drinkers who want to check a measure should watch the bartender filling the thimble. It should be held absolutely level over the glass and filled to the brim. Even Optics can be fiddled by withdrawing the glass too quickly.

Ice in the glass makes it almost impossible to guess whether the measure is accurate.

Christmas gift for Rock

From Our Own Correspondent, Madrid

Coinciding with the first anniversary of Spain's partial relaxation of the frontier restrictions for Gibraltar, the visits have been limited to one in any 24 hours.

Spain's 'right to education' Bill Church and state battle over private schools

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

A long running controversy over state-financed education came to a climax this week, as the Spanish Parliament debated the so-called "right to education" Bill introduced by the Minister of Education, Señor Jose Maria Maravall.

Doctrinaire socialism and militant Catholicism are struggling for influence, while many ordinary parents and taxpayers that only want the best education for their children that state funding can provide.

The minister, who holds an Oxford doctorate in sociology, under attack for choosing to send his own children to Madrid's fee-paying British Institute. Opponents of the Bill charge that he wants to deprive other parents of their right to choose a religious education for their children.

They do not stop short of accusing the Socialist Minister of attempting to abolish Spain's Catholic Church-run education altogether.

Spain is remarkable for having more than one third of its primary and secondary education run privately. Most private schools are in the hands of the Catholic Church, but receive state subsidies of up to 100 per cent.

The Church built up this almost unique position during the Franco period. In Zaragoza, for example, there were only two state grammar schools and more than 50 private secondary schools at the time of the dictator's death in 1975.

A majority of Spain's Catholic bishops, believing they enjoy the firm support of the Pope, are anxious to maintain their sway over educating the young in a country where almost everyone is nominally a Catholic.

Señor Maravall's Bill would replace the education law of 1979, introduced by the Centre Democrats, which gave the

Church generous funds for education with little supervision. The minister hardly helped matters, however, when he addressed a Socialist teachers' congress last weekend and accused the entire private sector of being motivated only by the desire for economic gain.

Tomorrow the Catholic lay organizations are preparing their reply, urging millions of parents to demonstrate in the big cities and help to collect up to 10 million signatures for a petition against the Bill.

The right-wing Father Angel Suerres, chairman of the Federation of Private Education Establishments, who is locked in a power struggle with the Education Minister, claimed yesterday that the state had a constitutional obligation to finance his organization's schools regardless of the parliamentary debate.

What most angers owners of the privately-run schools is that supervision by the state would be coupled with new school councils, on which parents and staff could easily out-vote the proprietors and the headmasters both on administrative matters and the curriculum.

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Alfonso begins military purge by naming four new chiefs of staff

From Douglas Tweedale, Buenos Aires

President Raul Alfonsín has named four new chiefs of staff of the armed forces, in the first step towards what he promised would be a "substantial and profound" reform of Argentina's military structure.

The Defence Minister, Sr Borras, announced the appointments on Wednesday night, just 24 hours after President Alfonsín ordered the trial of nine former military junta members on charges of murder, torture, and illegal deprivation of liberty, in connection with human rights abuses.

General Julio Fernández Torres, a career infantry officer who once disobeyed orders from former President Galtieri during the Falklands war, is to be chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

This is Argentina's top-ranking military post, president Alfonsín eliminated the rank of commander-in-chief in all three services on the ground that the constitution empowers the

President to be commander-in-chief of all military forces.

General Jorge Argüendey, an officer with a reputation of being non-political, was named Chief of Staff of the Army Rear-Admiral Ramón Arasa was designated Chief of Staff of the Navy, and Brigadier Teodoro Waldner will occupy the same post in the Air Force.

President Alfonsín's choices imply a virtual purge of the existing military leadership, as the promotion of younger officers will automatically force 29 generals into retirement from the Army 17 admirals from the Navy and two brigadiers from the Air Force.

The new Government has pledged to rid the armed forces of officers with political ambitions and to place the military under firm civilian control which may turn out to be the most difficult task facing Sr Alfonsín.

Besides their long history of invention in Government,

Argentina's armed forces greatly increased their economic and political power during the last seven years of military rule. The armed forces are also widely believed to have become corrupt and to be responsible for numerous atrocities during their campaign against left-wing terrorism in the mid-1970s.

President Alfonsín has promised that those officers responsible for human rights violations will be brought to justice, and that he will transform the services into "strong, effective armed forces that will play their proper role within the constitution."

General Fernández Torres, the centrepiece of the Government's military reforms, reportedly refused to obey an order from General Galtieri to launch a parachute attack on Goose Green during last year's war on the ground that it would inflict unacceptably high casualties on the Argentine troops.

Finance and Industry, page 17



Num killed: Sister Joan Sawyer from Belfast (in white, back), a Columbian Order nun, who was killed in a shoot-out in Lima, Peru, after being taken hostage, with three other nuns, by 18 escaped convicts. She was a social worker with slum-dwellers, pictured with her. Four convicts also died in the gun battle with police.

Meese's remarks hard to swallow

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

Mr Edwin Meese, the White House Counselor, has the pink, rounded countenance of someone who likes to eat well, which perhaps partly explains why a remark he made about hunger in America created such a political storm.

In a recent interview, Mr Meese said he had never seen authoritative figures that there were any hungry children in the US. He also said he had "considerable information that people go to soup kitchens because the food is free" and "that's easier than paying for it."

His remarks naturally produced a storm in a soup bowl. Democratic Congressmen and welfare organizations have excoriated him for his lack of sensitivity to the needs of the hungry, arguing that their numbers have increased sharply as a result of Reagan Administration cutbacks in social programmes.

According to the Congressional budget office, food stamp spending will be down by \$7,000m (\$2,700m) between fiscal 1982 and fiscal 1985 as a result of Reagan cuts, while spending for child nutrition programmes will be down by \$5,300m.

Mr Thomas O'Neill, the House Speaker and an outspoken critic, pointedly noted that the Administration was still refusing to release \$44m

which Congress has approved to finance the distribution of surplus foodstuffs to the needy.

Like Mr Meese, Mr O'Neill's own bulky physique suggests that he is not exactly on the breadline. But having grown up in one of the poorest cities in America - Boston - he knows what it is like to be hungry.

President Reagan has leapt to Mr Meese's (and his Administration's) defence, charging that his councillor's remarks were taken out of context and expressing his determination to eliminate hunger in America.

"If there is one person hungry in this country, that is one too many," he said, adding that his Administration was doing more to alleviate hunger than any previous one. The President's defence of Mr Meese was not only a show of loyalty to a trusted aide but was also intended to prevent Democrats from making too much political mileage from his hungry remarks.

A new opinion poll shows that a majority of Americans believe the Administration's cutbacks in social programmes have created hardship for many people.

Democratic contenders have already made it clear the "business issues" will be one of their main lines of attack on the President's record. Remarks like Mr Meese's merely help create an impression that Republicans believe soup is the first course of a five-course meal, rather than sustenance for many thousands of hungry Americans.

King has last laugh in Malaysia crisis

From M. C. G. Pillai, Kuala Lumpur

Malaysia's four-and-a-half-month constitutional deadlock has ended as abruptly as it began. But the acting King, in signing the controversial amendments into law, yesterday had the last laugh.

Besides getting a written undertaking from Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the Prime Minister, for a special parliamentary session next month to incorporate the ruler's objections into the constitution, he placed him on the defensive.

The constitutional amendments, passed last August, had 23 provisions, which apart from the contentious provisions the rulers objected to, also included the new parliamentary and state boundaries.

If these changes were not gazetted into law by Thursday the boundaries could not be altered for another eight years. Considerable political problems would then have been brought to bear upon the Prime Minister from his own supporters.

The rulers objected to the provisions that transferred the authority to impose an emergency from the King to the Prime Minister, the extension of some of these provisions to the states, and the automatic assent into law of any Bill that the King did not sign within 15 days of it being presented to him.

The special parliamentary session, would be held before January 11, when Datuk Seri Mahathir goes to the United States on an official visit.

There are indications that the original amendments were ill conceived and followed a path by Dr Mahathir that the next King - probably the Sultan of Perak of Johore - would be as independent in Kuala Lumpur as they are in the states. Malaysia's King is elected every five years from among the nine hereditary rulers.

Dr Mahathir, as part of the compromise, would ensure that the parliamentary session next month would restore the rulers' powers in the state, and give the power to impose the emergency back to the king.

If the King disagreed with a Bill, he could send it back to Parliament for further debate. If Parliament passed it again, this time with a two-thirds majority, it would become law within 30 days.

Ironically, this could prove to be a delaying action that the Government may not like. Some sources speculated yesterday that the King could use this power to delay emergency Bills that the Government sometimes gets through Parliament in a day.

By then, of course, the Greek Government will have made up its mind whether it will declare its support for the amendments to this land which are said to date back to 1832.

"Achmetaga" was named after the Turkish landowner who sold it for 10,000 gold sovereigns to Edward Noel, the present owner's great-grandfather, when Greece regained its independence.

A ruling of the Supreme Forestry Commission last month challenged the validity of the Noel-Baker title on the ground that the Turkish title-deed surrendered unacceptably, not ownership.

Mr Moschos Gikanozoglou, the Greek Under-Secretary of Agriculture, who must accept or reject the commission's recommendation, said: "We have nothing against Mr Noel-Baker. We referred to the

Man against the state Ex-MP fights to keep his land

From Mario Modiano, Athens

Undeterred by the threat that Greece might seize "Achmetaga", his 11,000-acre wooded estate on the island of Euboea, Mr Francis Noel-Baker, the former Labour MP for Swindon, is planning to develop it into a holiday resort.

Last weekend, he accompanied Mr John Blay, of Clydebank International, the British developers, for a survey of the area. "In the first phase," Mr Noel-Baker said, "we plan to build 50 holiday villas on non-forest land." Mr Blay said the intention was to start developing early in the spring.

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Mr Moschos Gikanozoglou, the Greek Under-Secretary of Agriculture, who must accept or reject the commission's recommendation, said: "We have nothing against Mr Noel-Baker. We referred to the

commission 122 similar cases of contested titles of private forests. We could hardly have exempted him."

Mr Noel-Baker believes the Government established this new procedure in an attempt to take over his estate without paying adequate compensation required by the constitution. He said he would fight his case in the Greek courts.

Greek officials claimed that in earlier negotiations Mr Noel-Baker had revoked an offer to give the 10,700 acres of fir and pine forest to the state, if it let him keep his house, 50 acres of farm land, and exempted him from all arrears of taxes and duties. The Government had responded favourably.

Mr Noel-Baker denies making such an offer. He said his tax liabilities amounted to £43,000.

The action against Mr Noel-Baker was the culmination of an eight-year campaign against him on the ground that he supported the military junta which ruled Greece between 1967 and 1974. Trouble began in 1975 when a local "struggle committee" was set up in Prokopi, the village of "Achmetaga". It organized demonstrations, calling for the expulsion of the Noel-Bakers and the seizure of the estate.

In one incident, the crowds went on a rampage, burning estate buildings and desecrating family graves. Mr Noel-Baker dismissed the troubles as communist-inspired and denied he had collaborated with the junta on any but humanitarian grounds.

The then Conservative government, bending to popular pressure, challenged his land title and prohibited the exploitation of the forest or the farm, or the estate.

Mr Noel-Baker has appealed to the Greek courts against this ban, which, he maintains, is in violation of Community law against discrimination of nationals of other EEC countries.

Mr Noel-Baker, accused of supporting the junta

Go-ahead for census in Germany

From Michael Blyson, Bonn

A national census, planned for last April but cancelled after objections had been lodged with the Constitutional Court, can go ahead, the court decided yesterday. But important changes had first to be made to stop any misuse of the information collected.

The court ruling was welcomed by the Government, which had fought hard to hold the controversial census, insisting it was essential if proper provision was to be made for West Germany's falling population. The Ministry of the Interior, which has given a warning of serious strains on social services, education and medical care because of the changing demographic profile, has said its estimates of the population could be out by up to a million.

The court said the Government was fully entitled to hold a census, the first since 1970, but could not pass on the information to other authorities.

Objections had centred on fears that the computer-processed answers could be used by the police, landlords and credit companies, and that confidential data would not be destroyed after use.

The Social Democrats, who called for a postponement of the census in the spring, said the judgment was an important step in strengthening privacy. The Greens, however, who led the move to boycott the census - which the Government threatened to punish with fines of up to DM10,000 (£2,500) for anyone refusing to fill in the forms - are unlikely to be mollified.

The questions the census will pose include those on religious affiliation, earnings, employment, housing and education. The Ministry of the Interior reckoned that the abortive April census would have cost DM371m, and needed 500,000 enumerators.

No enumerators would have been allowed to enter anyone's home, or disclose the answers they were given. But in Bavaria at least they would have been given a reward of DM2.50 for each German and DM5 for each foreigner they reported to the police whom they suspected to be either an unregistered citizen or illegal immigrant.

President Siles: Plagued by political infighting

President Siles: Plagued by political infighting.

Cabinet quits in Bolivia

La Paz (Reuters) - The Bolivian Cabinet has resigned, after a 48-hour general strike paralysed the economy.

The Foreign Minister, Señor José Ortiz Mercado, told a press conference that the move was intended to allow the formation of a government of national unity and establish a political and economic truce.

In their letter of resignation to President Hernán Siles Zuazo on Wednesday night, the 18 ministers accused the opposition-dominated Senate of planning a "constitutional coup" against the left-wing Government.

They resigned after a stormy debate in the upper house, where centrist and right-wing senators called on the Government to justify severe austerity measures adopted last month, including a 60 per cent devaluation, which led to a 24-hour general strike on November 21 and this week's 48-hour stoppage.

The opposition accused the Government of violating the constitution and encroaching on the prerogatives of Parliament.

President Siles's administration, plagued by infighting and social unrest since coming to power more than a year ago, had earlier offered to reopen talks with Bolivia's main trade union to avert further strikes.

Spy-purged CIA unable to fight world terror

From Our Own Correspondent, Washington

The US needs to recruit more spies to help to combat the upsurge of terrorism in the Middle East and elsewhere in the world, according to Admiral James Watkins, the Chief of Naval Operations.

Calling for a national strategy for dealing with terrorism, the

admiral bemoaned what he described as "the amputation of the human aspects of our intelligence service". Due to the lack of agents in the field, the US had been largely unprepared for recent events in Iran, Nicaragua, Lebanon and Grenada.

Admiral Watkins was referring to the purges in the Central

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Salvador troops to join next US manoeuvres

By Alan Doolittle

The United States will hold a third round of troop manoeuvres in Central America next summer, according to military sources in Honduras.

The next exercises will involve fewer troops and there will be no "symbolic extravaganzas" like last month's amphibious landings which were the centrepiece of the Big Pine 2 manoeuvres, the sources said.

Big Pine 3 will be characterized by its regional flavour. Troops from El Salvador and possibly Guatemala will take part. Most of the 3,000 American soldiers in Honduras will have gone by March.

Meanwhile, Honduras is pressing for loans to spend another \$400m (£270m) on military equipment over the next four to five years.

Knife attack on Tanaka's bitter rival

Nagasaki, Japan (Reuters) - A man brandishing a knife yesterday tried to stab Akiyuka Nishida, the novelist campaigning against Mr Kakuei Tanaka, the former Prime Minister, in the general election, police said.

Mr Nishida, dubbed Japan's "Don Quixote" because he is running full tilt at corruption in high-spirits and trying to topple the country's most powerful politician, was unhurt.

Police said the man, with a mountain's knife tried to stab Mr Nishida as he campaigned for Sunday's election in a market place. The attacker was overwhelmed by Mr Nishida's aides and handed over to police.

The author, who is 58, is standing as an independent against Mr Tanaka. Commentators have described him as a political kamikaze pilot.

Police said the assailant admitted to interrogators that he wanted to wound Mr Nishida.

Elsewhere in Japan, campaigning was non-violent but noisy. A further selection of opinion polls showed Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone's pro-Western, conservative Government was likely to preserve a sizable majority in the 511-seat House of Representatives.

Knave goes to electric chair after nine years

From Trevor Fishlock, New York

John Eldon Smith, whose wife persuaded him to kill a married couple, was put to death in the electric chair in Georgia yesterday. It was Georgia's first execution in 19 years and the eleventh in the United States since capital punishment was restored seven years ago.

Mr Smith, aged 53, was executed hours after the Supreme Court in Washington voted by six to three to reject a final appeal. He had been convicted nine years ago of killing his wife's former husband and the husband's new wife in an attempt to collect insurance money.

A fellow-inmate of Georgia's condemned cells, Alpha Stephens, was spared from the electric chair nine hours before his scheduled execution this week after the supreme court voted by five to four to grant a stay. His lawyer, successfully raised the issue of racial discrimination in respect of the death penalty.

The question of race plays a considerable part in the long running controversy over capital punishment in America. It has been shown that a murderer is more likely to be sentenced to death if the victim is white rather than black. Mr Stephens is black, and had been convicted of killing a white man.

Abolitionists say that the carrying out of the death penalty is to some extent a lottery.

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ROYAL NAVY OFFICER GRADUATE ENTRY

Offended Pertini gives back gift to Lévesque

From John Best, Ottawa

Incensed by some public comments made by Mr René Lévesque, the Premier of Quebec, last week, President Pertini of Italy has returned a gift Mr Lévesque recently gave him.

The diplomatic contretemps originated when Mr Lévesque emerged from a private discussion with Signor Pertini in Rome last Friday, to tell reporters that the President did not have a "very high opinion" of Canada's federal Government.

He also said that Signor Pertini would make a point of by-passing the federal capital, Ottawa, if he visited Quebec next year, in connection with the French-speaking province's 450th anniversary celebrations.

After Mr Lévesque's remarks had appeared in print, the Italian Embassy in Ottawa issued a terse statement, saying that the premier's comments "do not correspond to the opinions expressed by President Pertini and must therefore be considered distortion."

Yesterday, the External Affairs Department, confirmed that Mr Ghislain Hardy, the Canadian Ambassador in Rome had been asked by Signor Pertini to return an honorary document Mr Lévesque had given him, providing free admission to all of all of Quebec's 450th anniversary special events.

The President accused Mr Lévesque of "falsely and perversely interpreting" remarks made by him in the course of their private conversation.

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Chancery Division

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House of Lords

Guardian ordered to return official document

Secretary of State for Defence and Another v Guardian Newspapers Ltd

Before Mr Justice Scott
(Judgment delivered December 15)
His Lordship ordered the return to the plaintiffs, the Secretary of State for Defence and the Attorney General, of a photostatic copy of a document supplied to the Guardian newspaper...

Mr Simon D Brown for the Crown, Lord Rawlinson, QC and Mr Peter Prescott for Guardian Newspapers Ltd.

MR JUSTICE SCOTT said that on October 21, The Guardian received a photostatic copy of a document which they published in full on October 22 under the headline "Heseltine briefing to Thatcher of cruise timing". The Guardian did not know the identity of the person or persons who supplied it, nor was such person or persons obtained. It was a photostatic copy of a memorandum dated October 20, prepared by the secretary of state for the Prime Minister...

Obviously the original memorandum and the original copies were the property of the Crown. It could not be doubted that the photostatic copy was supplied to The Guardian without any authority from the Crown. It was highly likely that the supply of the copy to The Guardian must have involved a breach of duty by some unidentified employee or officer within one or other of the Departments of State which received copies.

The Crown wished to identify the source of the leak and for that purpose was anxious to recover the document supplied to and still held by The Guardian, and asked for it to be returned. In their reply The Guardian offered to return the document, with the markings fully obliterated. That was not satisfactory to the Crown, and accordingly the Crown issued a writ and notice of motion on November 27.

The Guardian had behaved with complete responsibility in the matter. The publication of the document on October 21 followed careful consideration by the editor to the questions of public interest that publication might involve. He concluded that the document related to matters of legitimate public debate and that no damage to national security would be caused.

On demand for its delivery up, the editor considered it his duty to protect the anonymous supplier by declining to return it otherwise than by obliteration of the marks that might assist in identifying the source. He made it plain that pending the court's decision the marks would not be obliterated or the document defaced or mutilated. Mr Simon Brown based his case on ownership of the document. Copyright in the original document was clearly vested in the secretary of state or in the Crown under sections 2, 4 and 39 of the Copyright Act 1956, and its unauthorized copying was an infringement of copyright and under section 18 (1) the copyright owner had the same right of bringing copies as if he were the owner.

The court had been referred to the Torts (Interference with Goods) Act 1977 which had created a statutory tort of "wrongful interference with goods", which stood as a substitute for the previous torts of detinue, conversion and trespass to goods. Section 3 of the 1977 Act provided that the tort was either (a) an order for delivery of the goods, and for payment of any consequential damages, or (b) an order for delivery, but giving the defendant the alternative of payment of damages by reference to the value of the goods, together with payment of any consequential damages, or (c) damages. By section 3 (3) the court could only be given under one head and head (a) was at the court's discretion.

Lord Rawlinson argued that the court should decline to exercise its discretion on the ground that there was public interest in material and information concerning matters of current public debate being made available to the press. The order for delivery up of the document might enable the source to be identified, that no overriding point of national security was raised, and that the remedy of delivery up ought to be declined.

The intrinsic value of the document held by The Guardian was nil, and no consequential damage capable of judicial recognition had been or would be suffered by retention of the document by The Guardian. To deny a remedy under head (a) would in effect deprive the Crown of a remedy at all.

It could not be a permissible exercise of the court's discretion to attach to an order for delivery up a condition that permitted The Guardian to deface the document by removing the identifying marks. The discretion was to order delivery up of the goods - which might mean delivery up in their present state - or to refuse such an order and leave the Crown to a remedy in damages, a refusal of relief under head (a) would represent a mistake of law and the discretion and be an injustice to the plaintiffs.

Accordingly, his Lordship concluded that, subject to section 10 of the Contempt of Court Act 1981, the Crown was entitled to recover their property and delivery up of the document.

Under Order 29, rule 2 A (1) of the Rules of the Supreme Court, an order for delivery could be made in interlocutory proceedings, but it would not be right to do so if there was a reasonably arguable defence, particularly where the goods were not in jeopardy pending trial. In this case, if the defendants could show no reasonably arguable defence it

would ordinarily be right to make an order for delivery at an interlocutory stage. Manchester Corporation v Conolly (1970) Ch 420, 426. The Guardian did not contest the Crown's ownership of the document, but based their defence of section 10 of the 1981 Act, which provided: "No court may require a person to disclose, nor is any person obliged to disclose, the source of information contained in a publication for which he is responsible, unless it is established to the satisfaction of the court that disclosure is necessary in the interests of justice or national security or for the prevention of disorder or crime."

Lord Rawlinson argued that the plaintiffs were seeking to obtain the document in order to identify the source of the leak, and that if they obtained it and were enabled to trace the leak, the defendants by handing over the document would have disclosed the source of the document. But - the argument proceeded - the section enjoined the court against requiring a person to disclose the source of information; it was not directed and could not be applied to oust proprietary remedies to which an owner of property might under the law be entitled.

Lord Rawlinson's construction rewrote the opening sentence thus: "No court may require any person to do anything which may lead to the disclosure of sources of information." His Lordship could see no good reason why he should so read the section.

It was not so phrased. Its provenance was, plainly enough, the litigation commenced by British Steel Corporation against Granada Television Ltd with a view to ascertaining who had leaked certain confidential information to the defendants in that case. The documents had been mutilated so that the identity of the informant could not be ascertained from the markings.

What was sought was that individuals should disclose by affidavit the source of the documents. No proprietary rights in the documents were in question. It was of interest to note that Lord Wilberforce assumed that British Steel ought to recover the documents; see British Steel Corporation v Granada Television Ltd (1981) AC 1096, 1166.

That background to the 1981 Act provided no support for the view that Parliament intended by section 10 to interfere with the proprietary right of an owner of a document to have back his document.

Accordingly, in his Lordship's judgment, section 10 had no application to the present case and it followed that the defendants had no defence to the claim.

If his Lordship were wrong, The Guardian could only succeed if the court were satisfied disclosure was necessary in the interests of justice or national security or for the prevention of disorder or crime. That provision was directed to the effect of disclosure, not to the effect of publication.

Lord Rawlinson had argued that the contents of the document, relating as it did to the tactics, parliamentary and political that the Government should adopt in regard to the arrival in England of cruise missiles, was such that publication of it could not be said to have affected adversely national security. Mr Brown had accepted that point.

Mr Brown's national security point was otherwise based. He said, first, that there was someone in high places in government service who had leaked the document and that whether in this instance harm was done, it was a matter of national security that he be exposed so that his potential harm in the future was removed.

Second, it was said that leakage of documents regarding nuclear missiles undermined confidence in the sufficiency of the security arrangements of Her Majesty's Government, and that other friendly governments might on that account be reluctant to share with us their secrets. Lord Rawlinson rejected both those points.

There was no need to go into his arguments in detail. Had section 10 applied, it would not, in his Lordship's judgment, have been right to have concluded that the defendants had no arguable defence.

As to Mr Brown's first point there was no real evidence of the class of persons who had access to those documents, nor was it a necessary inference that because some individual was prepared, in breach of duty and reprehensibly, to leak a document of that character, national security was endangered that he be identified and got rid of.

Second, the reaction of other Governments to a leak of that sort ought to be a matter of evidence, tested by cross-examination. His Lordship did not regard it as self-evident that they might react in the manner described.

This was not a case where unless an order for delivery up was made at an interlocutory stage grave inconvenience or injustice would result. Accordingly had it come to that his Lordship would have left the plaintiffs to make out their case on national security at trial.

The plaintiffs had subsidiary points on interests of justice and prevention of disorder or crime, but the Lordship did not find anything in the untested evidence which satisfied him that those requirements were made out to a standard of certainty that would justify a summary order at this stage.

The Crown was entitled to the order sought, but his Lordship granted a stay until Friday evening, to allow an appeal.

Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor, Lovell White & King.

Correction The title of R v Clerkwell Green Metropolitan Supermarket (Magistrates' Court, Ex parte Ibrahim (The Times, December 7) should have been R v Camberwell Green etc.

When non-strikers are directly interested in trade dispute

Presho v Department of Health and Social Security

Before Lord Diplock, Lord Fraser of Tullybelton, Lord Keith of Kinkaid, Lord Roskill and Lord Brandon of Oakbrook
(Speeches delivered December 15)
Where groups of workers belonging to different unions were employed by the same employers at the same place of work and there was a trade dispute between the employers and one of the unions, those workers who belonged to other unions were "directly interested in the trade dispute" within the meaning of section 19 (1) of the Social Security Act 1975 if the outcome of the dispute would be automatically applied "across the board" as a result of a collective agreement or established industrial custom and practice at the place of work concerned.

The House of Lords so held when allowing an appeal by the Social Security Commissioner from the decision of the Court of Appeal (The Times May 3, 1983) who allowed an appeal by the claimant, Mrs Kathleen Presho, from the commissioner's dismissal of her appeal against the refusal of the local tribunal for Accrington and Rossendale to allow her claim for unemployment benefit from November 18 to 22, 1978.

Mr Simon D. Brown and Mr Stephen Aitchison for the Department of Health and Social Security; Mr Benet Hytzer, QC and Mr John L. Hand for Mrs Presho.

LORD BRANDON said that the claimant was in November 1978 employed by Brooke Bond Oxo Ltd

at its food factory at Great Harwood, Lancashire. During or following a short period when she was laid off work in consequence of an industrial dispute in which she was not herself a participant, she applied for unemployment benefit. The insurance officer refused her claim on the ground that, in the circumstances, she was disqualified by the relevant legislation from receiving such benefit.

The material facts were set out in the commissioner's decision. The claimant was at the material time employed as an instructor/machine operator in a production line at the factory. She was a member of the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers (USDAW). Also employed at the factory were 27 maintenance engineers who were members of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers (AUEW).

That union put in a demand for the phase 1 and phase 2 increases (under the pay policy then in force) to be consolidated into their basic wages which demand would, if conceded, presumably represent a financial improvement for them, in that over-time rates calculated on basic rates would thereby be increased.

The management of the factory did not feel able to concede that demand. A work-to-rule was imposed by the maintenance engineers. As a result of an alleged refusal by two engineers to do a particular job and their subsequent suspension, work came to a standstill at the factory.

On November 20, 1978 all 417 production workers were laid off, as

machines were not being repaired. The stoppage of work ended on November 23, 1978, when work resumed in the factory, the terms of settlement being that pay negotiations would be brought forward to an earlier date in 1979 than had been originally contemplated.

Section 19 (1) of the Social Security Act 1975, before amendment, provided: "A person who has lost employment as an employed earner by reason of a stoppage of work which was due to a trade dispute at his place of employment shall be disqualified for receiving unemployment benefit so long as the stoppage continues..." but his subsection does not apply in the case of a person who proves - (a) that he is not participating in or financing or directly interested in the trade dispute which caused the stoppage of work; and (b) that he does not belong to a grade or class of workers of which, immediately before the commencement of the stoppage, there were members employed at his place of employment any of whom are participating in or financing or directly interested in the dispute."

The result of the amendment of that provision by section 111 (1) of the Employment Protection Act 1975 was that an employee, who was laid off by reason of a stoppage of work due to a trade dispute at his place of work employment was disqualified for receiving unemployment benefit unless he could prove (and the burden of proof was on him) two matters: first, that he was not participating, and, second, that he was not directly interested in the trade dispute which caused the stoppage of work.

In the present case it was common ground that the claimant did not participate in the trade dispute between the AUEW and the management. The sole question, therefore (remembering that the burden of proving the negative was on the claimant) was whether she was "directly interested in the trade dispute" within the meaning of that expression as used in section 19 (1).

In his Lordship's view, the expression "directly interested in the trade dispute" as used in section 19 (1) as amended, had to be given its ordinary and natural meaning in the context in which it occurred.

That context was that of situations arising out of industrial relations, including among other possible situations that of a trade dispute causing a stoppage of work at some factory or other place of work, at which different groups of workers, belonging to different trade unions, were employed by the same employers.

His Lordship would hold that, where different groups of workers belonging to different unions were employed by the same employers at the same place of work, and there was a trade dispute between the common employers and one of the unions those workers belonging to other unions were directly, and not merely indirectly, interested in the trade dispute provided that two conditions were fulfilled.

The first was that, whatever might be the outcome of the trade dispute, it would be applied by the common employers not only to the group of workers belonging to the one union participating in the dispute, but also to the other groups

of workers belonging to the other unions concerned. The second was that application of the outcome of the dispute "across the board" should come about automatically as a result of one or other of three things: first, a collective agreement which was legally binding; or, second, a collective agreement which was not legally binding, or, third, established industrial custom and practice at the place of work concerned.

It was, in his Lordship's opinion, a pure question of fact whether, in any particular case, those two conditions were satisfied or not. It was, moreover, a question of fact of a kind which insurance officers, local tribunals and the commissioner were, by reason of their wide knowledge and experience of matters pertaining to industrial relations, exceptionally well qualified to answer.

In the present case the commissioner found as a fact that the two conditions were satisfied, in that the employers would, by reason of the factual situation at the factory, by which he clearly meant the established industrial custom and practice there, apply automatically the outcome of their dispute with AUEW to other groups of workers belonging to other unions at the same factory, including the group of workers belonging to USDAW, of which the claimant was one. It was not, and could not be with any chance of success, have been contended that there was no or insufficient evidence to support that finding of fact by the commissioner.

The appeal was to be three important considerations which supported the approach adopted by his Lordship.

The first was that it accorded with the approach since 1926 by a substantial number of social security commissioners (or their carrier equivalents) after the expression concerned had first appeared. Observations of the Court of Appeal in R v National Insurance Commissioner, Ex parte Stratton (1979) QB 361, 369, 374 made it clear that, where there had been a consistent line of decisions in the field of national insurance by specialised tribunals over a large number of years, a court should be slow to depart from them.

His Lordship agreed with those observations and regarded them as applicable in the instant case. The second consideration was that the approach adopted by his Lordship accorded substantially with the ratio decidendi of the majority judgment of the Court of Session in Hart v Lord Advocate (1975) SC 120.

The third consideration was that, if the expression "directly interested in the trade dispute" were to be given a narrower and more legalistic interpretation than his Lordship thought it right to give it, the way would be wide open for deliberate and calculated evasions of the basic provision of section 19 (1) as amended, with the result that the effectiveness of the subsection in achieve its manifest object would be much reduced.

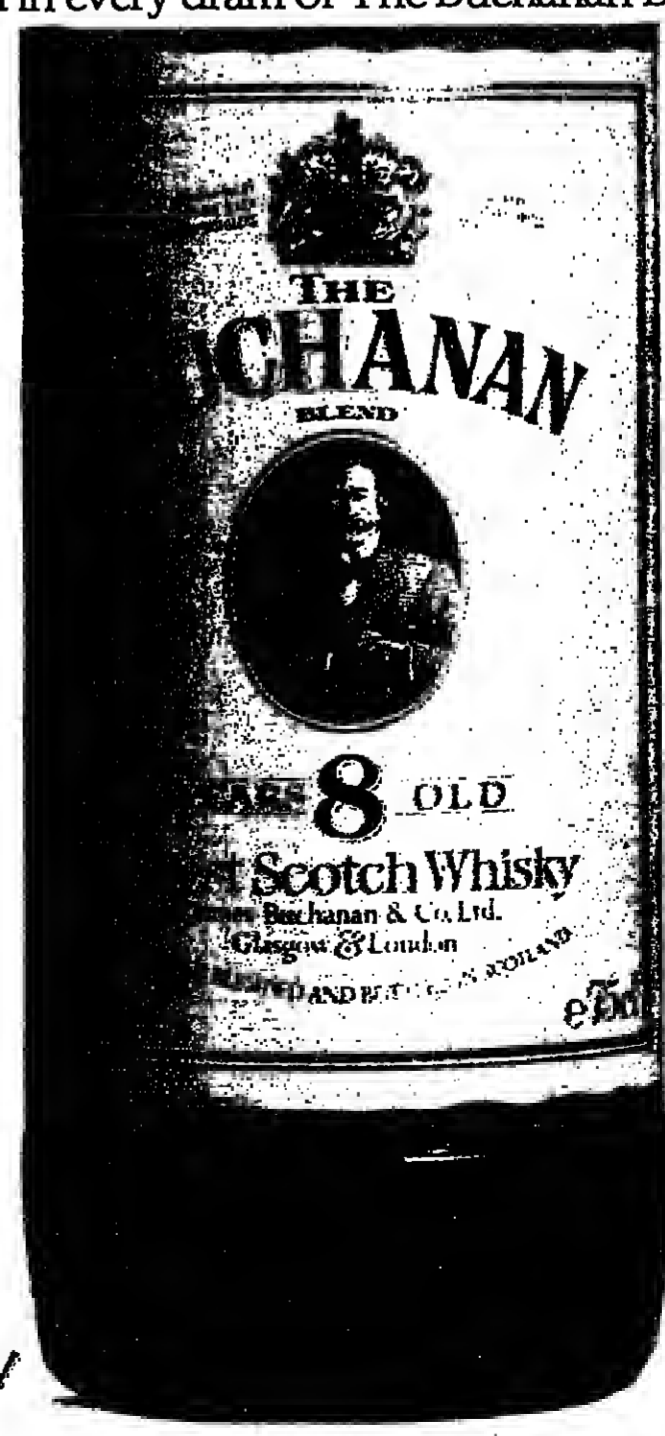
Lord Diplock, Lord Fraser, Lord Keith and Lord Roskill agreed.

Solicitors: Solicitor, DHSS, Hextall Erskine & Co.

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THE BUCHANAN BLEND THE SCOTCH OF A LIFETIME

THE ARTS

Cinema: David Robinson pays tribute to the genius of Max Linder (left), born 100 years ago today, and reviews new releases in London



One hundred years ago today Gabrielle Linder was born in Saint-Louis, a little village near Bordeaux, where his parents were wine-growers. As Max Linder he was to become the first great international clown in the cinema. In the seven years preceding the First World War he achieved worldwide fame and popularity that were only to be exceeded by Charlie Chaplin. Yet today Linder is hardly remembered, at least outside his native France. When this year's London Film Festival showed The Man in the Silk Hat, the delightful biographical tribute by Linder's own daughter, it was the first opportunity for over half a century to see his masterpieces of comedy, but very few Londoners were curious enough to attend the show.

time, however, Linder had built up a treasury of visual comedy which has continued to serve his successors. Chaplin included - down to the present day. It is hard to discover a comedy plot or a single gag that is not anticipated in the 500 or more short comedies of his prolific output. Linder was the first to introduce comedy of character to the screen. Other comedians of his generation depended upon frenetic knockabout. The comedy of Linder's films, like that of his basquin or any of the later great comedians, rose less from the inherent comedy of the action than from his own responses to it. In Linder's case the humour lay in the contrast between the mad, disordered world he created around him and his own indistinguishable elegance and style. He was no grotesque, he was young, handsome, debonair, gay, immaculate (give or take an occasional tumble in a lake or soaking with a hose) in silk hat, frock coat, cravat, spats, patent shoes and swaggar cane. He was gallant, and gallantry was generally his downfall for either his lady friends demanded extravagant exploits, as proof of affection, or

he was forced to desperate ruses to avoid large and jealous husbands. The sophistication of his humour and technique were far ahead of their times. He revealed a distinctive camera sense even before he became his own director. In his first starring film, Debussé, the satirical, he manages as his teeters and tumbles on his slates, always to keep himself in perfect compositional relationship with the exquisite backgrounds of the frozen Lake Daumesnil. Called upon to turn out his films at the rate of one a week and sometimes one a day, he made imaginative use of whatever locations and props were at hand: the Paris streets, Berlin squares and a Madrid corrida when he was on a theatrical tour of Europe; the Côte d'Azur or the ski slopes when he was snatching vacations; his family home when he was recuperating from one of the succession of illnesses that dogged him.

he comic imagination. Normally inanimate objects like shoes will develop erotic lives of their own; or Linder will launch into nightmares of being discovered taking a bath in public, or engaging in deadly combat with indomitable flypapers. How could such a supreme comic talent come to be forgotten? He was a victim of history. At the moment that Chaplin emerged to eclipse the rest, Linder's career was abruptly halted by the First World War. After it badly injured both physically and psychologically, he found it hard to rebuild his career. Two adventures in Hollywood production were less than successful. Back in France his future career was spasmodic. Eventually he could bear no more. On October 30, 1925, apparently in a suicide race, he and his 20-year-old wife died in a Paris hotel. In the room with them was their baby daughter, Maud Max Linder, who has spent her adult life working to restore the recognition her father deserves. Channel 4, which owes so much for our visual education, plans to show The Man in the Silk Hat, her latest and finest tribute, in the near future.



Norman Rossington: thunderous applause

Theatre Bungled burglary

But again, that lapses into a bungled burglary routine by the resident clowns (Jim Dunk and Clive Wood), incorporating an even feebler ghost routine. The book is full of empty pantomimic tricks (such as the obligatory 'big Hello' for the most superfluous character), least ends and undeveloped ideas. Looking on the bright side, the show has a good score by John Gould that goes with a fine music-hall bounce and includes numbers, such as a recipe for eel stew, that lend themselves to witty chorus work. Ian Judge's production is at its best as a musical: bringing the conspirators together to defend their egg-grabbing as "All For the Public Good", and greeting the visitors to the North Pole with a chorus line of tap-dancing penguins. Briefly granted his return to youth, Mr Rossington makes a fetching appearance in a tute-tu, thunderous applause and blown kisses from his balletic partner. And, besides Robert Austin's Demon King, a scintillating Edwardian heavy swell, there is a very classy principal boy from Gay Soper, obvious Prince material however humble his surroundings.

Mother Goose Shaw

The second Mother Goose of the week is a slicker and better cast piece of work than the Watford version, with equal claims as a traditional pantomime. But, where Watford gave the story a local twist, the Shaw version simply takes events as they come, dragging the author (Myles Rudge) along in their wake. On come the Prince of Darkness and his roguishly benevolent opposite number (Joyce Grant) to select Mother Goose's cottage as their battleground, and you expect them to follow through with a plot hinging on human discontent. The Dame then rolls on in the person of a crinolined Norman Rossington who carries contentment to the point of simple-mindedness from her opening tumble off her tricycle to her hospitality towards an orphan on the day she is due for eviction by almy Squire Bagshot. The story briefly returns to the rails when the Demon King, posing as a representative of the Wicked Landlords' Protection Society, advises the Squire to steal the golden goose and carry on with the eviction so as to erect a multi-storey car park.

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs Phoenix

"You said it was Aladdin", complained a little boy standing behind me into the stalls. "Well, it's Snow White", came the parent reply. "Now shut-up!" Actually, this show is not too soppy for boys, and anyhow, what with wicked stepmothers disguised as beggar women and encoffined heroines awaiting a prince's kiss, it is hard to remember whether one is seeing Little Red Riding Hood, Sleeping Beauty or what. Dana is, sweet, but she and every other young girl in the show, "All kinds of everything" could be found anywhere - and so, frankly, could these cardboard sets, decidedly too tacky for the West End. Then along come the seven dwarfs - apparently real ones - silhouetted and stomping over a bridge with lanterns glowing and Hi-Fi noises. Their characterization has little chance to register but their mini-wellies do a rainbow collection from avocado to violet which junior audiences will probably clamour to buy. Apart from the sticking door (cue for good comic adlibs) the shuddering drop curtain and the painted well that got nudged aside to let the Dame's sedan chair off stage, my only real gripe is that the show's eye on the box office directs it at a teller-proof audience electric guitar and percussion even for Nutcracker dances, and sassy chorus girls as seen on the box. Even Dame Doughtnut (Frankie Desmond) expects and gets the right reply for "Hi-do-hi" but be and Muddles (Mike Newman) have the uncanny rapport of a twinkling Paddy and a rouged old cabbage in carniknekers as they bat balls of dough round the house - till everyone wins.

Entering with "Happy Talk" (with blissful incongruity), Dana relaxes into her young audience's vociferous reactions and registers innocent alarm by turning her palms outward as though testing wind resistance prior to take-off. Barbara Halliwell's Wicked Queen makes her mark with her chandelier-battering cackle but the upstaging prize must go to the little red-suited girl, unwisely beckoned on, who peered self-possessedly towards the wings, waved at friends in the audience, and when invited to name herself bashfully wiped her nose with the back of her hand.

Irving Wardle

Advertisement for Sadler's Wells Theatre featuring Royal Ballet and Christmas Season 29 December - 14 January. Includes showtimes and ticket information.

Advertisement for Theatre Royal Drury Lane featuring Bob Fosse's Dancin' and other shows. Includes showtimes and ticket information.

Advertisement for Chamber Orchestra of Europe/Accardo at Festival Hall.

Concerts

excitement in the work showed, as it should, in his recognition that there was life set in motion by the rhythms of colour itself. If the performance, however, was weak, it was indeed, in the sometimes oversharp definition of orchestral counterpoint in narrative which is never quite so explicit as it may seem. But time and again one had to wonder at moments such as when the oboe, as Melisande, feels its way through the cell, haunted by the spectre of Goland's horn. Or at the playful seduction of the violins by the flute, at the strange menacing ache of flutes, solo cello and harp; at the voracious sense of self-perpetuation in which the entire orchestra is taken up, for the last time in Schoenberg.

Television Firing line

To those who watched Monday's Horizon, in which FBI marksmen learnt gleefully to bit the 'centre mass' between their targets' armpits, last night's TV Eye (ITV) will have seemed endearingly homespun. "Where's that first live round?" an officer asked a volunteer hoping to join the 5,000 authorized shots in the Metropolitan Police. The round was not well placed should have been, "Oh my God," said the officer, with a mock-desperate laugh. Selection methods for this elite group were, according to one new entrant, inevitably "a bit and miss affair". Well, yes and no. The programme had begun with a cooing wicket and confused re-enactment of the shooting of Stephen Waldorf, who was seen coaching the actor in their nasty, short and brutish parts. "We were frightened," said one of the actor-politicians, explaining his near-fatal mistake. One of Scotland Yard's top men indicated that psychological testing would soon form part of their selection procedures; a retired superintendent, from Yorkshire suggested that training courses should have such stresses built into them as would "make a man break if he's going to". Mr Waldorf, who made a personal appearance at the critics' preview, described the reconstruction as a "very fair portrayal of what had happened to him, and added that the dramatization had helped him to do something out of his system. No reviewer could argue with that.

Hilary Finch

Both soloists were at first rather disappointing, and did not project their phrases at all convincingly. In time they merged into the foreground, however, and gave a very fine account of the first movement's cadenza. The central Andante was far more consistent, and the soloists' was a beautiful conversation indeed. Though always considerable, their expressive intensity was varied with much discretion. We finally heard Mr Accardo's masterly violin playing in Mozart's rather lengthy "Hafner" Serenade, K269, which he again conducted. He proved to be stylish in both roles, and shaped the adventurous development section of the first movement with considerable insight. And soon afterwards there was some nearly sublime solo violin playing.

Chamber Orchestra of Europe/Accardo

Founded in 1981, the Chamber Orchestra of Europe is an international body with many British-looking names. On Wednesday evening it showed itself to be an ensemble of very high calibre, and in the opening Andante of Mozart's Divertimento, K137, the strings produced a tone that was beautifully smooth and light but also acutely expressive. They were acutely responsive as well to Salvatore Accardo's batonless direction. The bounding central movement entailed no loss of refinement: in fact the nuances were almost as detailed. Several dynamic levels were clearly

Max Harrison

Heel-clicking heroism with an infallible effective recipe, so this film on Four was in little danger from the off-button, but it was appallingly cheapened in its final frames. As handsome Florida died bravely in the saddle we flashed back to his teenage cousin's words about her lost virginity, an unlikely tale when first told, and grotesquely inappropriate now. Vulgarly, like murder, will out. Today's History (Channel 4) took an interesting if over-diffuse look at changing notions of "childhood", from miniature adult to wage-slave to (increasingly) now a substitute for immortality. It made an excellent commercial for the Christmas issue of History Today.

Michael Church

Advertisement for Wonderful Quartet at Albery Theatre.

Dance

violin, suddenly Tharp goes all balletic. This is no more real ballet than the dancers' elegant deshabille (by Santo Loquasto, all in white) is real ballet costumes. There are some real ballet steps there on stage, but, as I see it, the intention is to provide a personal equivalent of the lightness, formality and grace of ballet, since that suits this music, but to do it without following ballet's conventions. Telemann is all delicacy and playfulness; Nine Sinatra Songs is sheer razzmatazz in the most glamorous of these handsome settings that are created almost entirely by Jennifer Tipton's superb lighting. The music is actually eight songs and a reprise, stunningly shaped for maximum impact. You start with three duets in a row, each with different dancers, then bring the three couples together for a pseudo-finale to "My Way". After that, start all over with another one, two, three, four couples, building from one, climax to another and how can you miss when everyone comes back, again to "My Way". The dancers look stunning (pretty dresses and dinner jackets), the choreography is witty, sexy and stunning by turns (sometimes all at once), and the effect is as if all those half-remembered marvellous old movies had come to life.

John Percival

John Percival's music is a richly rewarding second half. The work, which was first performed in the year in which Schoenberg began to teach Webern, and which inspired his own Passacaglia, was a curious choice for finale, and all the more so far the Vienna Philharmonic's vital and intensely committed performance. Zubin Mehta's own evident

Vienna PO/Mehta

This year's homage to Webern, focused in the Olivetti International Webern Cycle, was caught up in Wednesday's closing concert in one of the most boldly etched Janus faces of all, Schoenberg's Pelleas und Melisande. The work, which was first performed in the year in which Schoenberg began to teach Webern, and which inspired his own Passacaglia, was a curious choice for finale, and all the more so far the Vienna Philharmonic's vital and intensely committed performance. Zubin Mehta's own evident

Williams/Williamson

One could argue that the piano duo is for the twentieth century what the string quartet was for the late eighteenth: a natural, neutral medium in which to think musically. So it seemed on Wednesday night when Keith Williams and Clive Williamson gave a splendidly alive recital of all three taking up the invitation and the challenge to peculiarly powerful individualities: Ligeti's Monument triptych, Bernd Alois Zimmermann's Monodie and Roger Smalley's Accord. Nowhere, though, did intensity of thought drive away beauty of sound, partly because the pieces are made that way, partly because Mr Williams and Mr Williamson are both warm and colourful musicians as well as expert craftsmen.

Paul Griffiths

crucial in the 13 years since his suicide. Monodie might seem an ironic title for music engaging two performers, but the piece is very much a soliloquy by the composer, in which he sets the creatures of his own imagination against those of other composers: from Bach to Messiaen, and against the awful consequences of imagination gone dead: massive splashes of clusters and growling in the deep bass. The opening is majestic, spacious and vibrant study in harmony, now happily available on record (Auracel Ancau 1006), gave the concert a richly rewarding second half.

Paul Griffiths

Advertisement for Wonderful Quartet at Albery Theatre.

Never Say Never Again (PG)

Warner 4; ABC Shaftesbury Avenue; Studio Oxford Circus; Classics Haymarket, Tottenham Court Road

Jaws 3D (PG)

There would be little point in mentioning that Never Say Never Again, directed by Irvin Kershner, is one of the more tedious entertainments on offer this Christmas. No one would believe it of a James Bond picture; and in any event brand loyalty works such wonders that the film has been topping the box-office charts in the United States since it

Dance

violin, suddenly Tharp goes all balletic. This is no more real ballet than the dancers' elegant deshabille (by Santo Loquasto, all in white) is real ballet costumes. There are some real ballet steps there on stage, but, as I see it, the intention is to provide a personal equivalent of the lightness, formality and grace of ballet, since that suits this music, but to do it without following ballet's conventions. Telemann is all delicacy and playfulness; Nine Sinatra Songs is sheer razzmatazz in the most glamorous of these handsome settings that are created almost entirely by Jennifer Tipton's superb lighting. The music is actually eight songs and a reprise, stunningly shaped for maximum impact. You start with three duets in a row, each with different dancers, then bring the three couples together for a pseudo-finale to "My Way". After that, start all over with another one, two, three, four couples, building from one, climax to another and how can you miss when everyone comes back, again to "My Way". The dancers look stunning (pretty dresses and dinner jackets), the choreography is witty, sexy and stunning by turns (sometimes all at once), and the effect is as if all those half-remembered marvellous old movies had come to life.

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Advertisement for John Mills in Little Lies at Wyndhams Theatre.

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Advertisement for Bob Fosse's Dancin' at Theatre Royal Drury Lane.

Advertisement for Wonderful Quartet at Albery Theatre.

Advertisement for Wonderful Quartet at Albery Theatre.

Gen next to its contin... C e... All impor West-... Mr and... Vaucl a int... incurs comp Port, a sec... mount secon Luton... Mi... end... Vauz be Bt 50 p... in t... Vau in B... when impo... court... i... wyla Tharp... Sadler's Wells... Talk about jet-setting: last week... wyla Tharp's company was... evading in Rome, while the... American Ballet Theatre with... Baryshnikov premiered Tharp's... Sinatra Suite in Washington... in... Now Tharp and her dancers are... at Sadler's Wells, where Nine... Sinatra Songs (which was the... starting point of the new Sinatra... ballet) was the big hit of... Wednesday night's opening... The bill also included another... world premiere in quite a... different mode, Telemann, and... for starters Six's Leg, danced to... songs by Fats Waller... That was a particularly apt... start because his way with a... song is very much Tharp's way... with a dance. They take... something standard and give it... an individual twist so that it... comes up looking quite differ... ent. In Six's Leg, the dance... style in related to disco dancing... but it would be an unusual... disco that attracted dancers... with the flair and personality of... Jennifer Waye, Tom Rawe and... Raymond Kurshals, not to... mention Tharp herself... Besides which, there is the... point that within the deceptive... casual ease of it all you... actually get bits of rap, vaude... ville and other skills thrown in... Then for Telemann, to that... composer's Concerto in E major... for flute, oboe d'amore and

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Sex, sadism and . . . shrewdness

Actor Sean Connery is best known for his role as James Bond, Ian Fleming's suave, cool secret agent. But the Bond image is a far cry from the star's early life in an Edinburgh tenement. Duncan Fallowell talks to Connery as his new Bond film opens in Britain

This interview is short and fast, bright and early in the George V Suite at the Grosvenor House Hotel, Park Lane. Sean Connery is wearing a green Bahamas Golf Club sweater. The Bahamas and Marbella are alternately "home". But Mr Connery is a shrewd Scot - the legal address is Monte Carlo.

What's his next film going to be? "I've no idea. I've acquired a whole batch of stuff I want to read. I haven't read anything in a long time. I've been doing things like 30-hour flights from Australia. You can't concentrate if you do things like that." Who's his favourite actor? "Unfortunately he died. Sir Ralph Richardson." Actress? "Um... I adore Katherine Hepburn."

Nothing very idiosyncratic so far. Connery conveys a tremendous impression of reliability both as man and star. His impact is larger than life. Or is it less than life, this giant certainly unencumbered by neurosis, this temperament whose most exotic obsession is golf?

What are his weaknesses as an individual? "The real skill in dealing with major problems in relationships is to be able to unhook something about someone. You know something about a producer, say. To unhook it so that it doesn't get in the way of the main issue, that kind of detachment, I find it awfully difficult."

Well, here's an American question connected with that: has being famous made him a nicer person?

"I think I can say I've never maliciously done anything to anyone. If I have any religion or philosophy it's that I'd rather leave the place at least the same, if not better, having been here. And I have no desire to treat people any other way than I would like to be treated myself."

The Connery Code is a pretty strict one but, honed in a northern climate, it comes naturally to him. He doesn't smoke. He doesn't like bunglers or smart alacs or inefficiency of any kind. He goes straight from the film set to the golf course to the marital bed with hardly any deviations en route except, perhaps, for a sensible meal. But he isn't a cold person, at least not with strangers, so what's his idea of a good party?

"No more than six or eight people. Oh, that's not always true - we had a very good party, more or less by accident, when we were filming in London and I had an apartment in Lennox Gardens, just behind Harrods there. I just decided to have a few people round and it coincided with people coming into town - Michael



Sean Connery: "I think I can say I've never maliciously done anything to anyone" (Photograph by Brian Harris)

was coming in - Michael and Shkira... yes, Caine. Roger was there - Roger Moore, that is - and Albert Finney and Diana Quick - and James Hunt and his dog Oscar - and Jackie - Jackie Stewart, with his wife, and Barbara was there with the guy she's now married to, Barbara Carrera, and Michael Medwin - none of us had seen each other for a wee while and it went on and on, nobody wanted to go. It was marvellous. That's what a party's all about - timing. Otherwise I like a dinner where there's at least two people who don't quite get on."

When was the last time you were drunk?

The Connery Code, honed in a northern climate

"Oh, just the other night actually. I like Scotch, I'm going back a bit to beer now, too."

How many children do you have? The files give different numbers.

"That's because I inherited some. When I married Diane Cilento she already had a daughter. Then we had Jason, who's my only child." Divorced 1973. "My present wife has from a previous marriage two sons and a daughter, and the daughter has two daughters." He married Micheline in 1976. She is Moroccan. They met at a golf tournament in Mohamaba, Morocco. Connery won the men's title, she the women's.

Have you enjoyed being a father?

"... Yes. One could have been better. Coming late to a choice of career, not marrying until late, the showbusiness lifestyle, the need for domestic help, got in the way somewhat."

Your own home as a child - was it warm and welcoming?

"No. It was very austere. So one really spent as much time as possible out in the streets."

Connery is an intelligent man, but one drawn in broad, simple strokes with any oddities ruthlessly edited out as soon as he was sufficiently rich and famous to become uncompromisingly non-eccentric. But the granite line begins early, in 1930 when he was born into a poor Edinburgh household and given the name Thomas; father a lorry driver, mother a charlady, his cot a wardrobe drawer, his bedroom later the kitchen, tin baths in front of the fire, a lavatory shared by 12 families on the tenement staircase.

At nine he started work, delivering milk before school. At 13 he left school and became a full-time milkman. At 17 he went into the Royal Navy - discharged three years later with ulcers. Subsequent jobs included lorry driver, cement mixer, bricklayer, steel bender, coffin polisher.

Then more curious and narcissistic influences came into play. He became a lifeguard at a swimming pool, took up body building, became an artist's model where he learned to relax while displaying himself - excellent training for a star whose key quality would always be physical presence. Connery represented Scotland in a Mr Universe competition (bronze medal) in London, where a friend playing in the musical *South Pacific* said there was a vacancy in the chorus. On impulse Connery applied and got it. He decided to become an actor.

Although Tom became Sean in 1951, stardom wasn't as immediate. His first break was in a television play in 1956 - a 20th Century Fox contract and string of B films followed. "I'll do anything I can get my hands on," he said to Patricia Lewis in her "Confidentially" column in the *New Chronicle* in 1957. What he describes as the "prostitution phase" of his life ended in 1962 with the appearance of the first Bond, Dr No.

If he was a lad in Edinburgh now,

unemployed, no future, what would he do?

"It's desperate, I know. I've been up there. As you'll note, I was able to get into the work ethic very early. What happens now, I don't know..."

Now for a few questions about sex. Connery is known to resent too-direct questions about his personal life, but he doesn't flinch. First, how did he discover the facts of life?

"Oh well, where I was born they were all messing around from the ages of seven and eight onwards in this big tenement building. It was impossible not to discover the facts of life. And there's a great puritan streak in Scotland which of course immediately intrigued the children - you wanted to know all about what was so terrible."

Can you remember your first experience of a woman?

"The decisive encounter was - we used to have air-raid shelters underground because the war was still on, I expect they're all filled in now - and I was walking along and was followed by an ATS woman and I was what, 14 years old I suppose, just left school. We ended up down in the air-raid shelters. A lot of things started in those shelters. This one was full of water, I remember, with planks and duckboards to walk on."

In a 1961 interview he said: "I don't

I have a chance to play out the fantasies

think there's anything very wrong about hitting a woman. I don't, though, recommend hitting a woman the way you hit a man." Would he still go along with that?

"Oh, yes, I still go along with that."

Generally speaking, would you call yourself a romantic? James Bond definitely is. In fact it is probably Bond's most amiable characteristic.

"No, I'm not."

He is a very masculine man - what is feminine in his character? For the first time the composure shudders. A glance of suspicion shoots out the side of his face, that famous suspicion which has battled journalists and producers alike, always on guard against being exploited, taken for a ride, used. He still attacks the exploiters, rather pointlessly since he's as rich as any. It is the puritanism again, informed by a slightly left wing sympathy. But actors are made to be used and, if they want to be stars, exploitation of their qualities is essential.

"... I don't know. I'm not very good at reading my feminine side. You'll probably have to ask my wife... I don't see myself as macho as the image. It's something that got built up."

One of the specific mistakes in *Never Say Never Again* is to put Connery into a toupé again. It ages him terribly. He looks much better without it. What's good about getting older?

"I'll can't think of too many things, actually. A Muslim Moroccan friend of my wife's says the thing to do is to acquire wisdom, that the real pleasure of getting older is to become wiser. I have flashes of what I take to be wisdom, but on the whole I don't seem to learn a great deal. I went through that phase of the *I Ching*, Ouspensky's *In Search Of The Miraculous*, Gurdjieff, *The Tibetan Book of the Dead*, you know. At the end of the day, it's not dissimilar to what's in the Bible."

Life's been good to him, on the whole. Has he had to pay a price, has he known any extreme unhappiness?

"No. I think the job has given me a chance to play out the fantasies, the kind of stuff which might well otherwise build up inside. When I was young I was very anxious and tense, though. My ulcers started at 16. But acting released this. I never want to go back to that again."

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moreover... Miles Kingston

The Last Post at Christmas

Wayside Pulpit, by the Totally Reverend Phil Marsh, Chaplain to the TUC

I read the other day in the paper that it was already too late to send Christmas cards to people beginning with "Z" in Buenos Aires.

Maybe those weren't the exact details. But that was the general idea.

And it made me very sad.

Somewhere in an Argentine suburb sits someone called Alberto Zarzuela (let us say) who is condemned to receive no Christmas cards from us in Britain. A printer, perhaps, whose livelihood is threatened by the draconian laws enacted by the late military junta. How do we feel about this?

I know how I feel.

I feel that draconian is a funny word. People use it all the time without knowing what it means. I know I do. So today I am going to look it up in the dictionary.

Well, well, what do you know? Draco is the name of a faint constellation in the sky. So that is what it comes from.

No, hold on. Draco was also the name of an Athenian lawgiver who made almost everything punishable by death. So draconian law, they say, is "harsh".

I'll say.

I had no idea that it was punishable by death to form a closed shop of printers. No wonder our lads are out in force at Warrington. No wonder Alberto Zarzuela is feeling a bit apprehensive in sunny Argentina. Every Christmas card he receives is printed by a mao who may have been taken out and shot by the time he gets it.

Makes you think, doesn't it?

Little did William Caxton think when he first used moveable type that his successors would be flocking to Warrington to safeguard their very lives. If he had known, do you think he would have joined them?

I doubt it.

In those days Warrington was but a tiny hamlet between Macclesfield and Liverpool, neither of which existed. Will Caxton and his merry band of flying pickets would have looked right twiddling descendent on three cottages and shouting "Reinstate ye Warrington sixes!" I doubt that there were six in Warrington to reinstate.

And yet the principle is absolutely correct. Jesus says in the Bible (TUC version): "Blessed are the solid, for they shall get their just demands. Behold, I have been to my executive, and my executive is with me on this one."

What did He mean by this?

I think He meant that Alberto Zarzuela is depending on every one of us to stick by him this Christmas tide, to send him Christmas cards even if they arrive late. Behold, there were printers in the field to whom the angel appeared saying, "Have you got my card still ready yet? And they made reply saying, "This is our busiest period, you will have to wait like everyone else. For unto us a son is born (Z&I), down the right wing and scored and bring to the table piping hot (continued page 67). Late result: Wrexham 0, Hymn 564.

I wonder what this means?

Blow me if I know.

And yet one thing I do know, because I have just looked it up in my Spanish dictionary, Zarzuela means "musical drama". Pantomime, perhaps? Do they also at this season have in Buenos Aires an extended run of "Ali Baba y los cuarenta ladrones"? Or "Ricardo Whittington", going on till March 3, if the new government lasts that long?

Impossible to tell. So let us, at this time of year, turn our thoughts finally to a stable in Bethlehem, where inside the oxen and ass are warm and comfortable, and outside a line of freezing photographers waits in the cold. It's a hard life being a press photographer, waiting for something that may never happen, peering through frozen keyholes and breaking down doors with their bare hands.

I believe the Italians call them paparazzi.

I wonder why?

Unfortunately, I haven't got an Italian dictionary.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 225)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

- ACROSS
- Deafened (7)
 - Colourless body (11)
 - fluid (5)
 - Egg cells (7)
 - Confused (7)
 - Employees (5)
 - Anti aircraft fire (4)
 - Sea lavender (7)
 - Rip dived (6,7)
 - Unswinded (7)
 - Smack (4)
 - Birds' resting place (5)
 - Ice hockey start (4,3)
 - Ingress (5)
 - Speak (5)
 - Greater (7)
- DOWN
- Counterpart (4)
 - Constrains (5)
 - Finger weapon (7,6)
 - Exhaust birds (5)
 - Idle (13)
 - Mars, follower (7)
 - 7 (18)
 - Elaborate dress (8)
 - Prevent from eating (4,3)
 - Lifts (5)
 - Assume (5)
 - From a distance (4)

SOLUTION TO No 224
 ACROSS: 1 Pastor 5 Blotch 8 ETA 9 Ushasp
 10 Safari 11 Plus 12 Occupant 14 Code of conduct 17 Postpone 19 Gibe 21 Coping 23 Signal 24 Ace 25 Bodkin 26 Exempt
 DOWN: 2 Annual 3 Transient 4 Reproof 5 Basic 6 Ort 7 Chronic 13 Pedagogue 15 Oloroso 16 Oversee 18 Organ 20 Bleep 22 Elk

Keeping alive the pioneering spirit

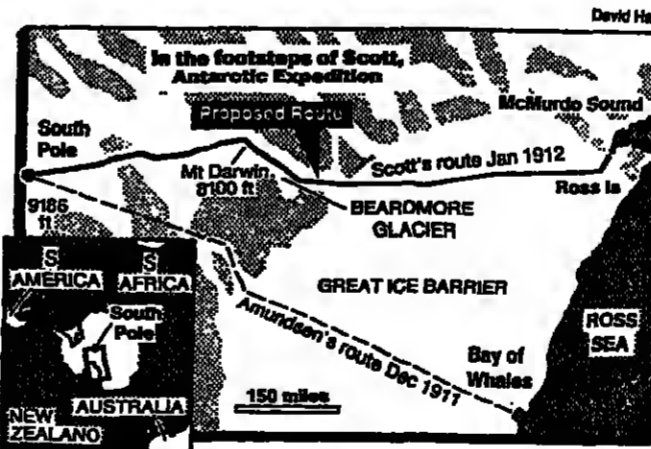
In a timely antidote to recent hallyho surrounding polar expeditions, two young Britons are putting the finishing touches to an ambitious plan by which they will become the first men to haul a sledge unaided to the South Pole. It is not, they say, an expedition of discovery so much as one of rediscovery; indeed, they have given it the title "In the Footsteps of Scott".

Robert Swan, aged 27, and Roger Mear, 32, plan to set out for the Pole in October, 1985. By a quirk of fate, a French expedition using dogs will repeat Amundsen's journey at the same time. The celebrated race to the Pole of 1911 between Scott and Amundsen will therefore, in a way, be re-acted.

The men's motivation is refreshing. Swan, the leader, emphasizes their deep respect both for the past and for the fragile Antarctic environment. They have disdained travel by vehicle or resupply by air-drop, which would have rendered the journey unremarkable: when they reach their destination, however, they will be lifted out on one of the regular flights from the US base at the Pole.

Committed conservationists, they wish to draw attention to Antarctica's great assets: its isolation and beauty. "I could not go to the Pole on a conservation ticket sitting on a machine", Swan says. "Let's go back and achieve a journey that gives us and others a sense of the old spirit of polar exploration."

To the suggestion that they will only be completing half of Scott's journey, and the easier half at that, Swan explains that Scott had taken support parties to within 170 miles of the Pole: they will take none. This will make their loads heavier, a brutal 300lbs per man at the start, reducing by 5lbs a day as food and fuel are consumed. As it is, they will start with full sledges to cross the first 400



A 75-day journey in the footsteps of Captain Scott

miles of relatively flat barrier. When they reach the foot of the Beardmore glacier, loads will still be a daunting 200lbs. Ten days of herculean and dangerous effort should get them up the glacier and on to the polar plateau, where 500 miles will separate them from the Pole. They plan to take 75 days in all.

It is fascinating to compare the changes wrought by the passage of 74 years. I asked Swan what psychological advantages he had over his famous predecessor. "We now have no fear of scurvy", he replied. "Neither do we fear isolation."

Scurvy was the bane of expeditions until vitamins were discovered just after Scott's time. General nutrition has also much improved. For instance, Scott's daily ration, mainly of pemmican and biscuits, weighed 2lbs 3ozs and gave 4,430 calories. Swan's will weigh 1lb 1ozs to produce 5,271 calories. The radio has banished much of the anxiety of isolation. The pioneers made their decisions and their lives then depended on their sound judgment. Swan, on the insistence of the Americans who would be responsible for search and rescue, will take a radio. He can



Swan: into the past

should for help and someone will hear.

How do physical abilities compare, then and now? Scott's men, no doubt typical of their generation, were a hardy bunch, but made no systematic effort to keep fit and were selected more for their all-round suitability and qualifications than for their purely physical attributes. Swan is a marathon runner while Mear is the sort of tough mountaineer labelled a "hard man"; both maintain a rigorous routine of fitness training and both have previous Antarctic experience.

Technology has given us equipment that is lighter, stronger and better. Scott's reindeer-skin sleeping bag weighed 15lbs and iced up dangerously. The modern down-filled bag is warmer and weighs about 6lbs. Scott took an 11lbs pick axe. Swan will have a telescopic ski pole/ice axe weighing 3lbs. And this story is repeated with every item of equipment.

Mountaineers consider a pair of men to be at a hazard on a glacier because if one falls into a crevasse the other cannot physically haul him out. Swan and Mear will be at particular risk on the fearsome Beardmore glacier. Crevasse rescue techniques have much improved, however, and they have some ingenious braking devices on their sledges to ensure that, if one man falls in, the other should not be dragged down also.

To keep costs down, the expedition will be conveyed to and from Antarctica by an Australian-manned yacht. Even so, the project will cost some £324,000 - a modest budget compared, for instance, with the £4m for the Finnes Trans-Globe spectacular. In the course of the expedition the yacht will circumnavigate the globe and it will be sold on completion to reduce the budget. There will be a total of seven expedition members in addition to the yacht's crew.

Sir Peter Scott, son of Captain Scott, is the expedition's patron. He particularly welcomes the way in which it will draw attention to the now urgent problem of the conservation of Antarctica. I suspect that he will also welcome the attitude of respect for his father that the venture reflects, in contrast to the hatchet job done on his reputation by the recent book *Scott and Amundsen*.

Mike Banks

The author is an explorer and mountaineer and holder of the Polar medal.

THE TIMES Tomorrow

START THE WEEKEND WITH THE PAPER THAT INFORMS, STIMULATES, AMUSES AND PROVOKES



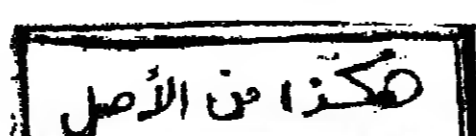
- Peacock parade: The see-and-be-seen night club crowd
 - Travel: For ever England in California; and aloha, Hawaii
 - Family Money: What's worth buying in France
 - Sport: Racing - SGB Chase at Ascot; Swimming - European Cup in Ankara
 - Values: Investment in presents with a future; and table decorations with flair
- PLUS: News from home and abroad; Gardening; Video review; Wines for the big day; Country Diary on the agribusines of East Anglia; Bridge; Chess; Family Life with a checklist for Christmas; a critical guide to the arts; Collecting on modelling in wax; Tommy Trinder's return

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COMMENT

Long time on short list

I have just completed the current school headship circuit. By the end I had accepted my status as the statutory woman on a short list...

Helen Mason on the rivalry over a race to publish artists' versions of Shakespeare

When Macbeth in cartoon strip form was introduced to an astounded public last year there were many, including scholars, purists, and publishers who had turned the work down...



relationship with Oscar Zarate, who was paid a flat fee for Othello, was 'trouble-free'...

FIRST PERSON

My lesbian daughter

It is tough going for convention-bound, sensitive parents when offspring decides to 'educate' them into the 1980s...

A help or a hindrance? What the critics say

"They're ghastly... terrible... dreadful", said the actor, Donald Sinden. "What really appals me is that for these prices people could get really good seats in a theatre to see the plays..."



He liked the look of Romeo and Juliet. The pictures make a good attempt at continuity. I think this guy manages to make the drawings complement the play...

Casualties of the cold

Legend has it that the saintly King Wenecelas needed divine intervention to preserve the circulation in his feet as he braved the ice and snow...

Invitro innovation

An improvement in the technique for invitro fertilization (test tube babies) has been introduced at Kings College Hospital...

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Poultry poison: However distressing the emotional trials of state may have had to bear at the European Community Summit in Athens...

Beating asthma

As more women return to work after childbirth, the date of delivery becomes of economic as well as social importance...

TALKBACK

Backing the Bill: From Julio Newberger, 36 Orlando Road, London SW4. My Obituary was omitted from my article on the Sex Equality Bill...

Anyone mean enough to throw a party without Smirnoff will have fun throwing this streamer. SMIRNOFF IF IT ISN'T SMOOTH IT ISN'T SMIRNOFF

THE TIMES DIARY

Cheque mate

Peter Kellner, political editor of the New Statesman, was experiencing some delay earlier this year in receiving a £50 fine from TV-am.

Special delivery

To wonder trade unionists are tempting quick getaways when they see a gentleman with a large bag of money in his hand moving towards them.

Doleful

Matthew Parris, formerly a member of Mrs Thatcher's private office and now MP for Derbyshire West, recently completed filming a World in Action programme.

Doo-dah day

Lady Olga Maitland's troops and the neo-fascist Common demonstrators will be joining battle again this Sunday.

BARRY FANTONI



"We're seriously considering putting only one spare room in the fall-out shelter."

Cryptic

Eton College has recently discovered "a few bones" in the crypt beneath the college chapel.

Off campus

"Campus, the right-wing alternative student magazine," has been banned by the student unions of six universities.

Now that the Government is expected to take on Austin Mitchell's House Buyers' Bill - designed to weaken the conveyancing monopoly of solicitors - it may be possible for the Law Society to come clean on what usually goes on in many solicitors' offices.

House-buying: how the Law Society slipped up again

by Alastair Brett

unscrupulous or inefficient solicitor - the state of anarchy and lawlessness visualized by the Law Society is most unlikely.

charging, it has been rocked by the Glanville Davies scandal, in which it refused to take action against a solicitor and former member of the Law Society council who grossly overcharged a client.

Perhaps, they say when national federations are established and become active next year, perhaps then we can fight hard.

after deductions earns about 12,000 zloties a month (about £85). His wife, who has to work, earns 7,000 zloties (£50) a month as a part-time secretary.

That survival, however, is bought at considerable emotional and physical pressure - on the wife, who has to queue perhaps two hours a day after work for basic foods.

The problem is now one of expectations. By its persistent propaganda of sacrifice, the government has tried to reduce these expectations.

At this time every year a group of bird-watchers assemble in an Indian swamp to squelch the cranes and through another of those obscure rituals that mark the conservationists' season.

Poland: hope behind the price rises

Warsaw Today, the thirteenth anniversary of the shooting of Polish workers during riots on the Baltic coast, Lech Walesa is expected to put forward a new programme of opposition.

Which can lay claim to speaking for the working class. The goal is that workers will join these new pro-government unions, speak their grievances to the officials, have them translated into salon-language, then wait for the results.

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Gdansk queue: despite expectations engendered by the authorities, Poles still have to wait up to two hours to buy basic foods

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Flying into extinction

by Tony Samstag

Meanwhile villagers in northern Pakistan and the Punjab have taken to crane-hunting.

Nearly 6,000 cranes are held in captivity, according to the World Wildlife Fund, most of them demimoule or common cranes.

Other, more orthodox captive-breeding programmes have been supplemented with a range of weird and wonderful experiments: eggs produced by captive cranes have been distributed among nests in the northern tundra, and small radio transmitters have been fitted to the birds' legs to help scientists trace the vicissitudes of migration.

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Other, more orthodox captive-breeding programmes have been supplemented with a range of weird and wonderful experiments: eggs produced by captive cranes have been distributed among nests in the northern tundra, and small radio transmitters have been fitted to the birds' legs to help scientists trace the vicissitudes of migration.

genous" and its report on house transfers "inaccurate, misleading, and misguided in many of its conclusions."

Worse was to come, for the methods advocated by the Law Society to defeat the Bill - including putting pressure on Conservative MPs to vote against it and attempts to ensure that MPs in favour are not in the House today - have been reported to the Speaker as a possible breach of parliamentary privilege.

The net result of all this is that relations between the Consumers Association and the Law Society have now reached an all-time low; the society has appeared as the last bastion of vested interest while the Consumers Association has been portrayed as the champion of the people.

As one North Country solicitor put it: "The panic language coming out of Chancery Lane is quite indefensible. It has not only embarrassed the profession but has made it look little better than the most reactionary element of the trade union movement."

But leaving aside the Law Society's banana skin path, if Mitchell's Bill gets the successful second reading which it deserves, or the Government takes over the Bill, the society must rise to the challenge. It must put its own house in order and, given the likelihood of the Bill's becoming law, help its members persuade the public to their viewpoint.

But the striking thing about the Was diagnosis and prescription is that if one compares it with what is supposed to be the last word in fearless, anti-establishment radicalism, in Sir John Hoskyns's recent diatribes, the two are remarkably close. The Hoskyns proposition, put alongside their Was "equivalents" are as follows.

● Hoskyns: The Prime Minister should no longer be restricted to the small pool of career politicians in Westminster in forming a government.

● Hoskyns: Whitehall must be organized for strategy and innovation as well as for day to day survival.

● Hoskyns: It must be possible to bring adequate numbers of high-quality outsiders into the Civil Service.

Radical - but in a traditional way

David Watt

This year's Reith lecturer, Sir Douglas Wass, whose Machinery of Government series is now complete, has had a pretty mixed press.

This criticism seems to me to miss the target. I found the lectures marvellously lucid and surprisingly radical. Of course, if the BBC or anyone else expected a man who has been Permanent Head of the Treasury for the last nine years and who retired from that eminence less than a year ago, to trumpet forth fashionable conclusions like "What's wrong with Whitehall is the Civil Service", they were out of their minds.

But the striking thing about the Was diagnosis and prescription is that if one compares it with what is supposed to be the last word in fearless, anti-establishment radicalism, in Sir John Hoskyns's recent diatribes, the two are remarkably close.

● Hoskyns: The Prime Minister should no longer be restricted to the small pool of career politicians in Westminster in forming a government.

Wass: Not dealt with directly, but no obvious objections provided (a) that the newcomers have sufficient parliamentary acceptability to be effective and (b) that there is no attempt to introduce a system of ministerial "overlords" such as Churchill tried unsuccessfully in 1951.

Wass: Hm! In favour of specialist (political) advisers and secondments, sabbaticals etc for normal civil servants to prevent their getting too inward-looking. But completely opposed to an American "spoils" system or indeed to the politicization of the career civil service.

Wass: Quite agree. Essential that ministers should have collectively an alternative appeal to the electorate provided by the colleague putting forward the proposal. We must resurrect and greatly strengthen the Central Policy Review Staff (or think tank) to be the servant of the Cabinet as a whole.

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consensus of the need for a reform of Whitehall - a consensus which is not so surprising when you think that a debate has been going on now, virtually uninterrupted, for nearly 20 years against a background of almost unrelenting national decline.

Likewise everyone, or virtually everyone, agrees that while the existing bureaucratic machinery can and should be reigned to encourage these things, the main requirement is the infusion of new blood into the system.

But the main thing that strikes me about the whole argument after all this time, is how narrow, in a way, it is. National revival depends on the national spirit, which is in itself dependent on a huge variety of factors - basic education, industrial training, the nature of the class system, housing mobility, the modernization of trade unions, the relationship of central to local government, and above all the flexibility of the political system itself.

● Hoskyns: Whitehall must be organized for strategy and innovation as well as for day to day survival.

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هكذا من الأصل



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WE MEAN WHAT SHE SAYS

By "freezing" the budget rebates to Britain and Germany which were agreed at Stuttgart in June, the European Parliament hopes to put pressure on the Council of Ministers to agree on lasting solutions to the crisis now afflicting the European Community. The Parliament has stopped short of rejecting the budget outright but it has taken action which it hopes will concentrate the minds of member governments and force them to come to terms in the next three months. The intention may be meritorious but the means adopted are neither constructive nor coherent enough for their declared purpose.

The rebate of 750 million ecu (£457 million) due to Britain in 1984 against its over-heavy contributions to the Community's resources in 1983 has been put into what is called the reserve chapter of the Budget. The normal use of the reserve is to receive and hold money in certain cases until such time as the policies for which the money is intended are adopted. It is, in other words, a kind of hypothecated contingency reserve, and when the intended policies are fulfilled, the money is transferred out of it.

In the present instance, a procedure which is part of normal Community financial arrangements is being misused as a political weapon. The Parliament is demanding final decisions on the Community's need to increase its own revenue from member states, on Britain's and Germany's unfairly high

contributions, to these resources, and on agricultural spending. Give such solutions by the end of March, it will release the money. It is not altogether clear whether the money would be released whatever the details of such an agreement, but the presumption is that, above all else, it wants an agreement of some sort by that date, and one that is durable and comprehensive.

This claim to be seeking the long-term solution which the Council of Ministers sought and failed to find at Athens is, on the face of it, in line with Britain's own argument that the crisis has to be settled as a whole and permanently. Yet Parliament's claim to be acting helpfully is hollow since its action discriminates against two individual states, Britain and Germany. In a resolution it passed in November it undertook to avoid such discrimination.

Indeed, logic might suggest that if the object is to force the Council of Ministers to reach agreement it would have been better to reject the Budget altogether. It is tempting to think that if the European Community can only settle its disputes by being brought to a brink, it might be better for it to be brought swiftly to a brink with a terrifying drop rather than to be led haltingly to a number of little brinks which irritate rather than terrify. Yet on balance the British government's view is that it would not have helped the Community at this stage for the Budget to be totally rejected. The

result would have been too much damaging dislocation.

Britain's position is that a startling enough brink will be reached anyway when the ceiling of 1 per cent of the VAT-based contributions is reached in 1984. It is going to be impossible to deal with this year's agricultural price negotiations because there will be no money for financing any price increases.

The European Parliament has chosen the end of March for its deadline because the next summit of Ministers will be held earlier that month and because it is the end of our financial year, by which time we require the rebate (and in previous years have got it.) But what if no solution is reached by the Council of Ministers in March? The Parliament may keep the money frozen after its deadline, but if it did it is clear what the British government would and should do.

In Parliament yesterday, the Prime Minister said that in that event we should take action to safeguard our position - a formula she has used before. In plain language, that means we should withhold part of our contributions to the Community due for transfer from funds held in London. This action, to compensate for the loss to which Britain was subjected, really would be the brink and Mrs Thatcher will be right to make the Community face it. This must not be bluff and the other member states need to understand that what is said is meant.

WHEN CARELESS TALK COSTS LIVES

In peace and war information is power. It has always been so, since long before the age of telex or satellite television broadcasts. It was Aeschylus who first coined the phrase that truth is the first casualty of war, and even Napoleon was heard to observe that "four hostile newspapers are more to be feared than a thousand bayonets". It is thus the natural instinct of government, at all times, to attempt to harness information to its purposes, and only more so when matters of national security are critically at stake.

Journalists are aware that this desire conflicts with the traditional purpose of the press which is, as *The Times* notoriously declared more than 100 years ago, "to obtain the earliest and most correct intelligence of the events of the time, and instantly, by disclosing them, to make them the common property of the nation".

The Beach Committee, whose report on the protection of military information was published yesterday, had to consider the point at which, during an emergency, government, press and people can all roughly agree that the public interest would be better served by some inhibition on the freedom to publish. Most of the British press would accept that, while the public interest is best served by maximum disclosure, this cannot be an absolute condition, since we all recognize that the public interest already requires some statutory restriction on press freedom as, for instance, in the workings of the courts. So the principle does not need to be argued; it is where the line is drawn in the application of that principle that will

always, and rightly, provoke argument and concern.

The Committee observed that, in time of tension, it would not be possible to draw a very precise definition of "military information". Moreover, once the general principle had been accepted that some formal system of information control should be introduced in those circumstances, it must be left to the official authorities in the first instance to determine what information they feel needs to be protected from disclosure. Why should they be trusted to carry out such a task benignly? Why should the press and the public not assume that information will more often be withheld for political or bureaucratic convenience, than to save lives? What is to prevent this system being introduced unnecessarily, and then being abused?

These questions can never be answered unequivocally. Such a system, in other words, will only work at all if it starts off on a basis of reasonable trust between public, press and government. That trust should be initially secured by an acceptance that no such arrangement could be introduced until there had been a formal state of emergency, which would anyway involve society in a wide range of consequences of which information control would only be one. Beyond that there would have to be trust by the press, cultivated over years of custom and practice, that the military authorities and their political masters operate a minimal policy on information control, restricting the flow only when genuine operational needs require it in order to save lives.

The more guidance that can be shared between editors and commanders, and the more advanced discussions that can occur on these procedures, the more likely such conditions of trust would prevail.

The general public has to trust its newspapers and the broadcasting media to see that they are vigilant in the public interest, and not just in their own, since the two are not necessarily synonymous. It is salutary, for instance, to see that the Beach Committee recommends some revision in the broadcasting code of violence. The attitude of television to any kind of conflict, from street demonstrations upwards, seems to reveal an obsession with violence, and a determination to film violence and its consequences in all their gory details without much sense of proportion.

The committee says "it is important for public morale that as much news as possible reach the people". We can no longer afford to have commanders like the American admiral whose attitude to information was summed up in the statement: "Don't tell them anything. When it's all over tell them who won". The people need the news, even when it is news of a defeat. Any kind of military emergency now so clearly involves the spirit of the whole nation that no operation could be continued for long without public support, and no public support could be sustained for long without information. In the national interest we would accept the principle of censorship during military emergencies, though we would fight hard over the detail of how it was to be applied.

TOO MUCH OF A SNIFF

The conviction this week in Glasgow of the Raja brothers for the sale to children of made-up "kits" for inhaling fumes from solvents has, naturally enough, led to a burst of press and public attention to glue sniffing. Sadly the fashion - for that is what the practice has become among some adolescents - is not new. It has been on the policy agenda for some time, and in a low-key way the Department of Health has taken steps to alert doctors and nurses to its growth and has convened conferences of policemen and researchers; most recently, and not before time, manufacturers of adhesives and retailers have been brought into the talks. This list, however, has a notable omission: parents.

There is a danger in the kind of moral panic seen this week, in the banner headlines, in the enthusiasm of backbench MPs to leap into the legislative swim, in the unfocused demand for action once a social breakdown has been discovered. The danger is that public disgust gets translated all too readily into a demand for the state to intercede, to absolve us all from the consequences of our and our dependents' actions. Manufacturers and retailers of potentially dangerous products (and there is an array of volatile substances on the shelves of newsagents and supermarkets that could be abused) carry responsibility. But sometimes we leap too quickly for the regulatory shackles. One of the blessings of the shift in attitudes in Britain since 1979 is

a new consciousness of the limits of governmental action in the social sphere. Glue-sniffing, like the abuse by teenagers of other drugs, alcohol or tobacco, demands action in and by families. The rebuilding of parental responsibility as much as the behavioural problem itself should be the focus of policy.

Over the abuse of solvent based adhesives there must be no complacency. The figures for related deaths and injuries are an undeniable cause for concern, and the Department of Health gave reassuring sign in Mr John Patten's statement yesterday that measures are in hand, albeit within the voluntary framework already established. A programme of education for schools, clinics and shop-keepers is envisaged but the Department is right not to give it the trappings of a crusade, and further glorify the sniffing fashion. Are such measures enough?

It would certainly be wrong to extend the reach of the criminal law to either the act of sniffing or its results (for example new categories of disorderly conduct). The behaviour at issue, Mr Patten noted, varies from being simply a transient phase through which adolescents pass to a sign of a deeper disturbance in personality. Extending the role of social services departments is not required at this point, either. Scottish examples are provocative but have their limits: the Scottish system of children's courts and its tradition of social

work perhaps needed the buttress of the specific statute on solvent abuse passed earlier this year.

Yet, as the Government does acknowledge, there may be a case for new law governing the sale of substances with such an obviously harmful effect. The present policy is to pin faith on the cooperation of newsagents and hardware stores which sell glue. The shops concerned are, however, ill-organized; national federations may make injunctions that have no effect in the corner shop. Perhaps the pawky response of the Raja brothers in court - although they knew the commercial benefit of what they were doing, as was illustrated by the fact they kept gallon drums of glue in the basement along with a handy supply of crisp and plastic bags - is the obverse side of that large-scale, and welcome movement of Asian immigrants into small scale retailing.

At present a legal code governs the sale of alcohol to minors; it was recently extended to cover fireworks. Some further extension to cover certain volatile substances used for intoxicating inhalation - they are fairly easy to identify and proscribe - would do no great injury to trade or liberty. Banning the sale of solvents to minors need wreak no great havoc with Airfix construction nor model-building; genuine modellers would need enlist only a parent, other adult or older sibling. The case for such a ban is well worth examining.

Partnership in Antarctica

From Mr Julian Amery, MP for Brighton Pavilion (Conservative)

Sir, Your leading article "South Atlantic Partners" (December 10) makes the constructive suggestion that the Falklands and their dependencies could, without any change of sovereignty, be turned into an Anglo-Argentine base for Antarctic exploration and development. But should you not take the proposal further?

Chile, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand also have claims on the Antarctic continent and obvious interests due to geographical proximity.

Could we not develop your concept to include these other interested parties, perhaps at the joint invitation of Britain and Argentina? Other signatories of the Antarctic Treaty might also like to take part.

Once the new airfield on the Falklands is fully developed and the harbour facilities improved, the islands might well prove to be the most convenient base available for Antarctic exploration as well as the meeting ground on which cooperation might resolve existing differences between Britain and the Argentine and the Argentine and Chile.

The Antarctic continent is generally thought to be a prolongation of the Andes and the Southern African plateau. There is, therefore, a distinct possibility that the mineral wealth of both may exist under the permafrost. Discovering it and then extracting it would be a challenging task but no more than landing a man on the Moon.

Yours sincerely,
JULIAN AMERY,
112 Eaton Square, SW1,
December 13.

Examination results

From Professor Harvey Goldstein

Sir, The article by Ronald Butt (December 8) and your leader (December 1) on the exam results research of the National Council for Educational Standards (NCES) are critical of Department of Education and Science officials, but avoid the main issue.

The real research interest lies in whether the type of school attended (comprehensive, grammar or secondary modern) affects the examination results of pupils with different individual characteristics and backgrounds. To such analyses it is essential to allow for differences in individual achievement prior to secondary school entry to avoid the possibility that examination result differences are merely reflecting entry selection policies.

The NCES research used school average exam results rather than individual data and had no measures of achievement prior to entry. Such deficiencies make it markedly inferior to the recent National Children's Bureau (NCB) study of examination results which had intake measures on individual children and found few important school type differences.

The recently published criticisms of the NCES research by officials at the NCES, which now have been substantiated by analyses in *Statistical Bulletin 16/83 (The Times, December 10)* pointed out that the NCES had made inadequate allowances for social class in studying the variation in examination results between Local Education Authorities. Because their measurements are at school or at LEA level only, however, neither the DES nor the NCES analyses can contribute much of value to the debate over school type comparisons.

If further research is to be funded, then it would be more useful, and cheaper, to exploit the NCB data than to pursue the use of school type data.

Yours faithfully,
HARVEY GOLDSTEIN, Chairman,
Department of Mathematics, Statistics and Computing,
University of London
Institute of Education,
20 Bedford Way, WC1,
December 12.

Calke Abbey

From Mr J.Si Bodfan Gruffydd

Sir, What is "heritage landscape"? The Government is in a great mood to examine the problem. The Historic Buildings Council has collected information with a view to "listing" historic gardens and parks, while the Countryside Commission deal with more natural landscapes in national parks and areas of outstanding natural beauty.

Gardens and parks are deliberately designed and planned, whereas national parks and areas of outstanding natural beauty cover the more natural parts of our countryside. The criteria for judging the two types are distinct and different, to considering the Calke ambience, which is very much garden/park landscape, however, the Secretary of State appears to rely on advice of the Countryside Commission.

The writer was sufficiently concerned to examine the problem carefully on the ground. He found unmistakable evidence of careful planning in the disposition of woods and copses, shelter belts and tree clumps across the farmed land right to distant horizons, deliberately planned as extensions of the park design. In fact, the distant views are vital factors in the protection of the aesthetic of the park immediately surrounding the Abbey.

Nowhere is this beautiful, enclosed landscape is a jarring note to be seen - no pylons, no motorways, no factory farm buildings. Once allowed this connected landscape out of the park ownership and there is no saying how soon the beauty and seclusion of this bit of our inheritance might be lost.

The arbitrary delineation of the "heritage landscape" boundaries of

Chilling prospect of a nuclear winter

From Dr Norman Myers

Sir, I read with interest David Watt's comments on December 9 about the film *The Day After*, and his speediness in whether the scientific prognosis of nuclear winter is correct. Having participated in the background research in the United States during the past several months, I do not agree that there are "many uncertainties in the hypothesis" that warrant "understandable caution".

Both the physical and biological, teams of dozens of variations of their computerized models to check their findings, and they concluded that their analyses were reinforced time after time, with virtually no significant variations in the outcome. Whether we consider a 10,000-megaton or only a 1,000-megaton war, the results produce a nuclear winter. To certain circumstances a mere 100 megatons can trigger a similar phenomenon (Britain possesses more than 100 megatons).

The papers, being published in the major American journal *Science*, have undergone unusually rigorous appraisal through extensive peer review. If one can be permitted the phrase, there is an "overkill" of supporting evidence to justify the findings. Several independent research efforts have come up with parallel results.

To quote the summary of the biological paper, authored by 20 leading scientists from several countries, "It is clear that the ecosystem effects alone resulting from a large-scale thermonuclear war could be enough to destroy the current civilisation in at least the northern hemisphere... the combined intermediate and long-term effects of nuclear war suggest that eventually there might be no human survivors in the northern hemisphere."

All this reiterates a key question. Can government leaders afford to continue with their present response to the nuclear threat, with the new risks of a nuclear winter - precisely at a time when more weapons are being deployed? Or should they not rather consider the alternative risks of taking a closer look at whatever measures are necessary to throw the

nuclear arms race into reverse? Perhaps the prospect of a nuclear winter will help us to achieve at least a nuclear freeze.

Yours faithfully,
NORMAN MYERS,
Upper Meadow,
Old Road,
Headington,
Oxford,
December 13.

From Professor Sir Frederick Warner, FRS

Sir, David Watt (December 9) has written about the aftermath of nuclear war and Carl Sagan's comment that the prospect of a "nuclear winter" frightens him more than *The Day After*.

A committee of the International Council of Scientific Unions is engaged in a study of this and longer-term effects than the immediate deaths following a nuclear exchange.

A workshop in Stockholm during November decided to re-examine the scenarios for different scales of nuclear exchange and conduct further research in several countries on atmospheric chemistry, climate change and biological effects. The next, on agriculture, will be in Delhi from February 9 to 11, 1984, and the one after in Leningrad to May.

General planning is being done by a steering group of leading scientists from the USA, USSR, France, Sweden, India and Japan, under my chairmanship. The Royal Society has financed a research assistant to work with me at the University of Essex, which has provided accommodation.

So far we have not had the "dog fight" nor the pause expected by David Watt. We have had to work hard to provide the discussion papers which scientists need for useful discussions and to start by concentrating limited resources on facts which can be agreed or further explored by experts.

Yours faithfully,
FREDERICK WARNER,
Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment,
As from: Chemistry Department,
Essex University,
Wivenhoe Park,
Colchester, Essex,
December 9.

Can government leaders afford to continue with their present response to the nuclear threat, with the new risks of a nuclear winter - precisely at a time when more weapons are being deployed? Or should they not rather consider the alternative risks of taking a closer look at whatever measures are necessary to throw the

Housing priority

From Mr Charles Williams

Sir, Jamie Stevenson (Whitehall Notebook, December 7) is less than fair to the Department of the Environment. Regrettably the Treasury has not accorded public-sector housing investment, whether in new dwellings or improvements, the priority it deserves.

Patrick Jenkin and his predecessors at the DoE have, however, consistently encouraged councils to dispose of assets, council houses or land, pointing out that the more they sell the more they have to spend on additional investment. Some councils have significantly increased their housing expenditure by the use of capital receipts in this way.

Unfortunately the Government does not apply to its own transactions the same policy as it applies to local authorities. The Chancellor made it clear in his autumn statement that the Government will be increasing significantly the sale of assets, mainly shares in state corporations.

Such sales of assets will not in any way be linked to increased investment; indeed the main use to which this finance will be put appears to be social security. Asset sales no longer are received as capex in the City as once they were; they are increasingly seen as a way of massaging the public-sector borrowing requirement.

By contrast, a policy of linking increased asset sales with increased investment in those facilities which only the public sector can provide would seem logical to the financial community and would instil greater confidence in the Government's handling of the economy.

Yours sincerely,
CHARLES WILLIAMS,
National Council of Building Material Producers,
33 Alfred Place, WC1,
December 8.

Can government leaders afford to continue with their present response to the nuclear threat, with the new risks of a nuclear winter - precisely at a time when more weapons are being deployed? Or should they not rather consider the alternative risks of taking a closer look at whatever measures are necessary to throw the

Archive uncertainty

From Mr Victor Gray

Sir, Mr Murray (December 6) does well to draw the attention of your readers to the fate of the Greater London Record Office, whatever that fate may be. So far not a whisper has emerged from Whitehall to expand upon the "special provisions" so coyly promised in the White Paper, *Streamlining the Cities*.

It is to be earnestly hoped that, whatever plans may emerge for the administration of GLRO, they will involve no thought of dismembering the tremendously rich and important collection or archives for the history of London, so assiduously built up over three quarters of a century. Such a scattering could only be considered by anyone with a modicum of interest in the history of the capital as an act of the grossest vandalism.

It is surely unthinkable that London should have no repository specifically and wholly devoted to the safe-keeping of its written history.

At the same time, historians of English provincial history would be advised to consider the effect of the Government's proposals on archive services within the metropolitan counties. Here the Government's thoughts on the future seem equally vague, involving the devolution of collections to one of the districts and calling for co-operative ventures between district councils.

It does seem that archives, like other areas of cultural service highlighted in your columns over recent weeks, are to be dragged by the scruff of their neck and squeezed into the new pattern. So be it. But let no one pretend that what comes out at the end of the day will be better or even as good as present arrangements; or that an equivalent service will be provided more cheaply; or that the arrangement will be more rational. Certainly, let no one suggest that it is streamlining!

Yours sincerely,
VICTOR GRAY,
Association of County Archivists,
As from: Essex Record Office,
County Hall,
Chelmsford,
Essex,
December 8.

Law of Sea Treaty

From Mr Peter Farr

Sir, May I underline the argument of the President of the General Council of British Shipping (November 16)? This country, with a handful of others, hesitates to sign the Law of the Sea Treaty because of the (admitted) imperfections of the clauses governing seabed mining.

The economic and commercial arguments for proceeding with the mining of deep-sea nodules at any time in this century are looking less and less plausible, however optimistic a view is taken of the prospects for general economic recovery.

During the last few years, the intensity-of-use of the basic industrial metals (the quantity needed for each unit of GDP) has fallen sharply. Some decline has historically happened in advanced economies and mature markets; the recent fall has, however, gone further and more quickly than the historical trend.

The inevitable consequence of this is that forecasts of demand for metals must be lowered.

We have in fact already seen this in the case of steel. As recently as 18 months ago, world demand for crude steel to 1990 was confidently forecast to be around 1,000 million tonnes; few authorities now expect it to be much over 800 million. Forecasts for consumption of

State subsidies for the arts

From Mr Robert Jackson, MP for Wantage (Conservative)

Sir, Frank Johnson (December 13) quotes Anthony Beaumont-Dark, MP, asking the familiar question about the arts, "why is it so essential to civilization for the taxpayer to subsidize activities which are so unpopular with the majority of the public?" Let me try to answer.

From an economic point of view the live performing arts are an activity in which technology is staid, so that labour productivity cannot be improved in line with advances in the surrounding economy. It takes just as long, and requires exactly the same equipment and labour, to play a Beethoven symphony today as it did when the work was first performed in 1810. But because the wages paid to non-volunteer musicians inevitably reflect the higher wage levels made possible since that time by technical progress elsewhere in the economy, activities which may have been viable in the market place in 1810 have long since ceased to be so (and even at that time they enjoyed special patronage).

Nevertheless, while the technology of performance has stood still, there has been great technical progress in the communication of performance: radio, gramophone records, television, video. The economic value to Britain of these technologies is indisputable: exports of films and television programmes in 1981 were worth £144m and in the same year earned £30m. There are also the earnings from tourism. Excellence in the live performing arts is essential to the vitality of these industries.

However, because of economic specialization there is no inbuilt mechanism, with the notable exception of the BBC, by which profits earned by communication are directed to nourishing the culture of performance upon which those profits depend. This is why live performance has come to rely on the transfer through state subsidy of a small portion of the taxes levied on those profits.

Of course we have to make decisions, which will be essentially arbitrary, about how much to spend on state subsidies to the arts, just as Prince Esterhazy had to allocate resources between his Kappellmeister and his kitchen. But to a truly educated society it would not be necessary to deploy the sort of means/ends argument of this letter to justify support for activities which are an end in themselves and to the enhancement of the life of all they touch.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT JACKSON,
House of Commons,
December 15.

Can government leaders afford to continue with their present response to the nuclear threat, with the new risks of a nuclear winter - precisely at a time when more weapons are being deployed? Or should they not rather consider the alternative risks of taking a closer look at whatever measures are necessary to throw the

Prosecution by stores

From Mr Recorder C. W. L. Jervis

Sir, Parliament can so easily create the simple and absolute (i.e. without proof of dishonesty) offence of taking goods from a shop without payment, and make it triable only before magistrates. If such an offence is allowed to run side by side with theft, the prosecutor has a choice.

The real thieves are charged with theft; the absent-minded old folk with the lesser offence to which they can plead guilty without fear of social disgrace and take care not to do it again. Much distress and public expense will thereby be saved.

Yours faithfully,
C. W. L. JERVIS,
R65-Vale,
St Buryan,
Penzance,
Cornwall,
December 9.

Missing the bus

From Mrs Fiona E. Hamilton

Sir, May I suggest that a possible solution to the plight of the villagers of Swanton Morley (report, December 9) might be the operation of a route taxi system?

As practised in some parts of the West Indies, this consists of a number of taxis licensed to operate on certain agreed routes, with prefixed fares per seat per journey. In this way the cost per person is kept down to a reasonable level and the taxi drivers can be expected to be quick to establish when there is the greatest demand.

Yours faithfully,
FIONA E. HAMILTON,
6 Redburn Street, SW3,
December 9.

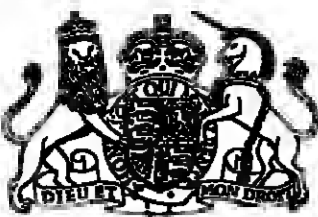
Can government leaders afford to continue with their present response to the nuclear threat, with the new risks of a nuclear winter - precisely at a time when more weapons are being deployed? Or should they not rather consider the alternative risks of taking a closer look at whatever measures are necessary to throw the

A fine point

From Mr P. J. Bourke

Sir, Are not an injunction to stop violent protest by CND at Greenham Common, and fines if they do not, as justified and necessary as those against the NGA at Warrington?

Yours faithfully,
P. J. BOURKE,
Waverley,
Pickler's Hill,
Abingdon,
Oxfordshire,
December 12.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE December 15: The Hon S. J. Joyal (Secretary of State, Canada) had the honour of being received by the Queen this morning.

The Duke of Edinburgh arrived at Wigton Station in the Royal Train this morning. He was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Cumbria (Sir Charles Graham, Bt).

KENSINGTON PALACE December 15: The Prince of Wales this evening gave a reception at Kensington Palace in aid of the Prince of Wales's Award for Industrial Innovation and Production.



The Earl of Suffolk and Berkshire who yesterday married Linda, Viscountess Bridport at Basingstoke Register Office, Hampshire. The earl lives at Charlton Park, Malmesbury, Wiltshire and the bride's family home is at Nutley, Hampshire. It is the earl's third marriage.

Memorial services

Sir John and Lady Fisher The Duke of Edinburgh, Permanent Master of the Shipwrights' Company, was represented by the Prime Minister, Sir Charles Alexander, at a memorial service for Sir John and Lady Fisher held yesterday at St Lawrence Jewry-near-Guildhall.

Luncheon

Royal College of Surgeons of England Professor Geoffrey Slaney, President of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, yesterday entertained at luncheon at the college Sir Austin Bide, Mr James G. Gulliver, Mr Robert Maxwell and Professor Harold Ellis.

Marriages

Earl of Suffolk and Berkshire and Linda, Viscountess Bridport The marriage took place quietly on December 15 at Nutley, near Basingstoke, of the Earl of Suffolk and Berkshire and Linda, Viscountess Bridport.

Soirée

Conservative Foreign and Commonwealth Council The Conservative Foreign and Commonwealth Council (formerly CCOG) held a Christmas soiree yesterday as a tribute to their president, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, and Lady Howe at 100 Park Lane.

Birthdays today

Professor Sir Harold Bailey, 84; Mr N. C. Blaney, 69; Mr F. R. Brown, 72; Mr Arthur C. Clarke, 66; Judge Myrella Cohen, 90; 56; the Hon Peter Dickinson, 76; Major G. J. Graham-Green, 77; Sir Jasper Holm, 66; Lord Margadale, 77; Mr J. H. F. Monahan, 71; Vice-Admiral Sir Charles Norris, 83; Air Chief Marshal Sir Hubert Patch, 79; Sir Victor Price, 83; Lieutenant-General Sir David Scott-Barrett, 61; Sir John Thompson, 76; Miss Jacqueline Thwaites, 52; Miss Liv Ullmann, 45; Dr Jan van Loenen, 82.

Latest wills

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Ernest Edward De Wilson Wills, 4th Bt, of Mount Prosperous, Hungerford, Berkshire, left estate valued at £2,134,017 net. He left his property to his wife and issue.

University news

Manchester H. H. Hillier, BSc, PhD(Lond), has been appointed to a personal chair in chemistry from December 1.

Church news

Episcopal Bishop of Winchester, London and Winchester with Bathurst in the same diocese.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr D. J. Farahan and Miss H. M. Charrington The engagement is announced between Daniel, son of Mr R. Farahan and Mrs D. Frampton, of 504 Dolphin Square, London, SW1, and Henrietta, daughter of Major R. E. Phillips and Mrs Marjorie Charrington, of Winchfield House, Winchester, Hampshire.

Science report

Dispelling myths about first-born children By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

Most the lights stay dim for Elsie this Christmas. She's a plucky 81 year-old, but this Christmas she faces what will seem "the loneliest day of her life". No family, because she has none left. And no-one to visit her. All the happy gatherings will be in other people's homes, and the lights in other windows. Christmas seems a bleak day when you're lonely and forgotten in a chilly room.

Science report: Dispelling myths about first-born children. The oldest child in a family is the object of great attention and high expectation by its parents. Hence the first born becomes a self-critical perfectionist who is most likely to succeed.

Science report: Dispelling myths about first-born children. The sample of first-borns in any study is a cross-section of all social classes, not a disproportionate number of the fifth-borns come from "less privileged" homes.

OBITUARY

LORD AMULREE

Medical care of old people Lord Amulree, KBE, who died on December 15 at the age of 83, was a qualified doctor who took a special interest in the problems of old people, and was active on medical questions both in the House of Lords and outside.

DR S. CLOTWORTHY

Dr Stanley Clotworthy, CBE, who died on December 6 at the age of 81, was Senior Professor of the University of Southampton, an appointment he held from 1972, after a successful career in the aluminium industry during which he had been chairman of Alcan Industries Ltd and Alcan Aluminium (UK) Ltd.

MR THEODORE CROMBIE

A correspondent writes: The death occurred in London on December 6 of Theodore Crombie, the art historian, at the age of 71. He was an authority on Spanish Old Master paintings, especially those of Velasquez and Goya, and was in demand as a publisher and collector of valuable paintings.

JANOS FLESCH

Janos Flesch, the Hungarian grandmaster who was killed in a car accident with his wife Lidiko on December 10, Flesch, who was 50, was in this country, playing in the Ramsgate International Chess Tournament.

SIR ANTONY GUY ACLAND

Major Sir Antony Guy Acland, 5th Baronet, who died on December 14, served in the Royal Artillery for 21 years from 1937, and then joined Saunders-Roe as a rocket engineer. The projects on which he worked included the Black Knight and Black Arrow research rockets.

DR R. SZYDLOWSKI

Dr Roman Szydlowski, the Polish theatre critic, translator and author, who was President of the International Theatre Critics' Association from 1969 to 1975, has died in Warsaw at the age of 65.

Various small advertisements and notices on the right margin, including 'Tight give R', 'Request by Allianz rejected', and 'NEWS IN BRIEF'.

THE TIMES

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Tight money rein could give Reagan rough ride

The White House view is that the American economy will grow about 4.5 per cent next year. This projection has still to be stamped by President Reagan who will release it and other estimates in his 1985 budget message to Congress early in February.

For several weeks senior Administration officials have expressed fears that the Fed may already have tightened policy too much in its effort to prevent a rekindling of inflation. They have warned the White House that because of the considerable length of time the economy needs to respond to the central bank's actions a sharp slowdown could become apparent in November, just two weeks before the presidential elections, when figures are released for the quarter ending September 30.

Mr Donald Regan, the US Treasury Secretary, reflected these fears in a speech this week at the Washington Press Club, in which he said: "The Fed waits in and this economy before it oversteers and we get inflation back. They have been tightening for the last six months. My concern is that they not overdo it."

The Administration economists are also reported to have forecast a huge federal budget deficit in the neighbourhood of \$200 billion. The prospect of a series of mammoth budget deficits is one reason why Mr Kaufman is looking for a rise in interest rates. He has lent his voice in calls for action to reduce the deficit. President Reagan, however, has ruled out a significant tax increase in his next budget. He said yesterday that he did not intend to raise taxes in 1984 but he left the door open for some sort of a "tax package" in later years.

Although both the president and Administration economists have played down the importance of Federal budget deficits, they were singled out specifically by M Jacques De Larosiere, head of the International Monetary Fund, in a speech in Chicago yesterday. M De Larosiere said a primary aim of the IMF in the coming year would be to force member nations to place special emphasis in reducing fiscal deficits which threaten to "crowd out" private investors just as the global recovery gathers momentum. That should please Mrs Thatcher.

Stalemate at the Savoy

Trusthouse Forte went to great lengths yesterday to emphasize that it was not its current intention to make a further offer for Savoy Hotel. This rider came after THF, in agreement with the Takeover Panel, had disclosed that it had bought, from the investment arm of S G Warburg, THF's merchant bank, a further 1.137 million Savoy A shares. The deal was struck on Friday and most of it was executed outside the market. THF would not reveal the price.

The additional shares raise THF's interest in the Savoy equity to 69 per cent. The number of votes it has rises from 40.2 per cent to 42.3 per cent. Savoy Hotel's two-tier equity structure leaves THF in a unique position: two-thirds of Savoy profits and dividends fall to THF, but control still rests with Sir Hugh Wainwright and the Savoy board who would prefer Lord Forte to find up his tent and leave their gate. In March two years ago Lord Forte, then Sir Charles, bid £58m and then £67m for Savoy Hotel - the company also owns the Connaught, Claridge's and the Berkeley - but the citadel did not fall. Nor will it as long as the B shares, which make up a small proportion of the share capital but a large part of the voting power (the A shares have a tenth of a vote whereas every five B shares carry 10 votes) remain in firm and friendly hands. The most important of these belong to Dame Bridget D'Oyly Carte, but Lady Ellicman's holding is the critical one. If Lord Forte could charm hers from her, he could be within an ace of winning the game.

Lord Forte appears to be as determined as ever to own Savoy Hotel but he has admitted that the present situation cannot continue indefinitely. It is a costly stalemate for THF and frustrating for the Savoy. The good so far that has come out of the clash is a much more determined and commercially successful Savoy management.

Mr Norman Lamont, Minister of State for Industry, yesterday clashed with Britain's private sector steel industry over allegations that the Government was dragging its feet over the promised privatization of the British Steel Corporation. Mr Lamont was criticized at the annual lunch of the British Independent Steel Producers' Association by the president, Mr Peter Lee. Mr Lee said that apart from some welcome exceptions, the government had made little progress in returning the steel industry to private hands. He said that despite the understandable difficulties, the need for Britain to have a viable and efficient steel-producing industry, independent of public subsidy, was as vital as ever. "We believe that the failure of the Government to ensure that priority was being given to its stated policy has made the task more difficult and progress has been unnecessarily slow."

Mr Lamont, who is representing the Government in the latest round of European Community talks aimed at

New Argentine government calls for debt moratorium

Argentina's new Government has asked its commercial bank creditors for a moratorium on debt payments, it emerged yesterday. However, there was confusion in banking circles over the exact nature of the request. Reports from Buenos Aires said that Argentina wanted a six-month delay on payments on its \$40 billion external debt. But bankers in London suggested that a 90-day moratorium on principle payments was more likely. Bankers interpreted the action of the civilian government, which formally assumed power only on Saturday, as a prelude to a new round of debt-rescheduling negotiations on which the new ministers wanted to stamp their mark. London banking sources said that Argentina would want to defer signing public-sector debt-rescheduling agreements negotiated by the previous government. It was likely to press for more favourable terms on the refinancing of \$4 billion to \$5 billion of public-sector debt maturities due in 1984 and 1985. Senior Bernardo Grispun, Economy Minister, is reported to have said in Buenos Aires yesterday that Argentina would postpone any new payments on its foreign debt until June 30, 1984. By that date, the country hoped to have completed reschedulings for 1984 maturities. Although debt negotiation with the Argentines has caused considerable problems for the banks over the past year, bankers are reasonable about reaching new agreements with the civilian government. Indeed, the return to civilian rule has been seen as a hopeful sign.

Industry set to invest more

Government hopes that higher investment will help to keep the economy moving ahead as the impetus from consumer spending slackens were boosted yesterday by the latest survey of investment intentions by the Department of Trade and Industry. This shows that industry plans to step up investment by about 7 per cent in 1984 with an even sharper rise by the manufacturing sector. In manufacturing, capital spending, including investment financed through leasing, is expected to show a 9 per cent volume rise in 1984 compared with this year. The DTI survey is considerably more optimistic than the predictions of the Confederation of British Industry and is a surprise to many outside forecasters. It will be particularly welcome to the Government because recent figures have shown manufacturing production remaining flat and investment sluggish. Revised third-quarter capital spending figures issued yesterday disclose a fall of more than 1 per cent in manufacturing investment in the latest six months compared with six months earlier.

Surprise £15m fall in Distillers profits

The Distillers Company, the Scotch whisky group, yesterday sprung a surprise on the City by announcing sharply lower half-year profits. Pre-tax profits in the six months to the end of September fell from £80.2m to £64.9m, on sales £3.3m higher at £493m. The company said last July that its profits would fall this year, but nobody foresaw the scale of the downturn. The profits were struck after charges of £4.3m for redundancy and closure costs. The chairman, Mr John Connell, said that trading profits in the second half were unlikely to compare favourably with the strong performance of the same period last year. The company's share price fell 12p to 218p after news of the results, wiping £44m off the group's stock market value. Mr Robert Temple, a Distillers' director, cited weak demand for whisky in the Latin American and Middle East markets as the main reason for the fall in profits. The volume of sales to parts of these markets has as much halved so far this year. The effect of this on profits has been severe, since it was very high-margin de-luxe whiskies that tended to sell best in the once buoyant markets such as Venezuela and Mexico. In most other areas of the world, Distillers has done no worse than the industry as a whole and, in some markets, notably the United States, it claims to have done better. The strength of the dollar has had a dramatic impact on the profitability of exports to the US. Profits are said to be about £5m higher than they would have been had last year's exchange rates ruled at the end of September. The group gave a cautious indication that the worse may now be over for the Scotch industry. Recent reports from a number of markets suggest that the decline in consumer demand is levelling off and the company is hoping for a gradual recovery next year. In contrast to the poor performance from whisky, the group's much smaller white spirits business improved trading profits, helped by a big rise in exports to Tanzania in the US. The product is now challenging Beaufort as the top selling imported gin in the US. United Glass, the group's 50-per-cent-owned glass container manufacturing company, reported a £4m loss after providing for rationalization costs.

London Brick in £8m deals

London Brick is buying two small regional brickmakers for £8.25m in line with its policy of trying to build a fifth force in the non-fleiton facing brick market. The company has a monopoly of fletton brick making, but has only a small share of the market for other bricks. It is paying £6.25m in cash for the Milton Hall Brick Company, a subsidiary of the Southend Estates property group. Milton is a leading producer of "London stock bricks". It is also paying £2m, mainly in shares, for Claugton Manor Brick, a leading manufacturer in North-west England of frost resistant bricks.

ICI sells stake in Vantona

ICI finally severed its connections with the textile industry yesterday by selling its entire stake in Vantona Viyella. The group is selling 7 million shares of the company at 148p each, amounting to just under 20 per cent of the total issued equity and valuing the entire stake at £10.36m. The shares are being placed with financial institutions by the merchant bank N. M. Rothschild and the broker Hoare & Covert. ICI obtained its shares in Vantona Viyella when Carrington Viyella, in which it owned a sizeable stake, merged with Mr David Alliance's Vantona earlier this year. Shares of ICI slipped 4p to 650p on the news, but later recovered in close only 2p down at 652p. The sale met with mixed reactions in the City, with observers expressing surprise at ICI's timing. It now looks as though the textile industry is starting to pull clear of the recession. Yesterday, Mr Alliance, chairman of Vantona Viyella, took the opportunity to forecast a leap in pre-tax profits for the present year from £4.3m to £11m. Mr Alliance said that he was pleased with ICI's decision to sell, having wanted it to place the stake. ICI says that one reason for selling now was to help improve the group's tax position as the financial year draws to a close. But the group was known to have been unhappy with its investment: it had supported the loss-making Carrington Viyella for years. Mr Alliance intends to take up 250,000 of the shares on offer. This is in addition to the shares he will be entitled to take up as Vantona's biggest shareholder.

Reed questions bid rebuff

Reed Stenhouse has told shareholders in a document despatched yesterday to ask what advice Holdings to ask their board and its financial advisers why they have rejected Reed's bid terms when they said during negotiations that they were "recommendable". The suggestion by Reed plays on the uncertainties within the Stenhouse board which culminated in the resignation of Mr Bert Houghton, a former chairman, last week because he believed the terms should be accepted. Reed also tells shareholders

Private producers attack Minister

Mr Norman Lamont, Minister of State for Industry, yesterday clashed with Britain's private sector steel industry over allegations that the Government was dragging its feet over the promised privatization of the British Steel Corporation. Mr Lamont was criticized at the annual lunch of the British Independent Steel Producers' Association by the president, Mr Peter Lee. Mr Lee said that apart from some welcome exceptions, the government had made little progress in returning the steel industry to private hands. He said that despite the understandable difficulties, the need for Britain to have a viable and efficient steel-producing industry, independent of public subsidy, was as vital as ever. "We believe that the failure of the Government to ensure that priority was being given to its stated policy has made the task more difficult and progress has been unnecessarily slow."

Mr Lamont, who is representing the Government in the latest round of European Community talks aimed at

Pound rally helps gilts

A recovering pound put new life into the gilt market yesterday. Despite being down by about 25p early in the day, gilts closed 12p up on the strength of sterling. The pound itself gained \$1.225 against the dollar at \$1.4225. Meanwhile, the FT Index put up a firm performance, despite a weak opening on Wall Street. It closed 1.7 up at 752.8. Market report, page 18

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index 752.8 up 1.7
FT Gilts: 82.26 down 0.04
FT All Shares: 483.65 up 0.38
Bergains: 19.828
Datastream USM Leaders Index: 95.17 down 0.17
New York: Dow Jones Average (latest) 1241.26 down 5.39
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index: 9482.48 up 61.28
Hongkong: Hang Seng Index: 889.88 down 4.88

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
Sterling \$1.4225 up 55pts
Index 82.0 up 0.2
DM 2.9400 up 0.0175
Fr 12.0050 up 0.0525
Yen 334.50 up 1.25
Dollar Index 130.7 down 0.1
DM 2.7670 up 0.0020
NEW YORK LATES
Sterling \$1.4235
Dollar DM 2.7705
INTEREST RATES
ECU 0.754744
\$BREX 7.33505

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rates 9%
Finance houses base rate 9%
Discount market loans week fixed 8/8
3 month interbank 9/4-9/8
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 10/16-10/15
3 month DM 6/16-6/16
3 month Fr 13-3/13 1/2
US rates:
Bank prime rate 11.00
Fed funds 9/8
Treasury long bond 99/4-99/8

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am \$388.60 pm \$389.75
close \$388.75-389.50 (£273.50-274.00)
New York latest: \$381.75
Kruggerand (per coin): \$400.50-402.00 (£281.75-282.75)
Sovereigns (new): \$91.00-92.00 (£64.00-64.75)
*Excludes VAT

NEWS IN BRIEF

Request by Allianz rejected

Eagle Star has given a final rejection to requests from Allianz Versicherungs, the West German insurance group, for further information about its business. Allianz had said that failure to supply the information could result in its offering Eagle Star shareholders a lower price for their shares. But Eagle Star's chairman, Sir Denis Mountain has declined to disclose details of the company's 1984 budget, saying it was impossible to quantify the effect of a change of control on the group's business and that the provision of the figures could lead to them being treated with a degree of accuracy that would be inappropriate.

Losses increase

New York (AP-Dow Jones) - Losses were slowly increasing in early trading on the New York Stock Exchange yesterday. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was down by more than 6 points to 1,240 and the Transportation Average had fallen by about 5 points to 589. General Motors fell 1/4 to 73 1/2, Honeywell was off 1/2 at 134 1/2, Texas Oil down 1/4 at 42 1/2, Getty Oil up 1/4 to 78 1/2, Exxon 1/4 lower at 37 1/2, International Business Machines off 1/4 at 120 1/2 and Union Carbide unchanged at 62 1/2.

WALL STREET

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New York (AP-Dow Jones) - Losses were slowly increasing in early trading on the New York Stock Exchange yesterday. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was down by more than 6 points to 1,240 and the Transportation Average had fallen by about 5 points to 589. General Motors fell 1/4 to 73 1/2, Honeywell was off 1/2 at 134 1/2, Texas Oil down 1/4 at 42 1/2, Getty Oil up 1/4 to 78 1/2, Exxon 1/4 lower at 37 1/2, International Business Machines off 1/4 at 120 1/2 and Union Carbide unchanged at 62 1/2.

Reed questions bid rebuff

Reed Stenhouse has told shareholders in a document despatched yesterday to ask what advice Holdings to ask their board and its financial advisers why they have rejected Reed's bid terms when they said during negotiations that they were "recommendable". The suggestion by Reed plays on the uncertainties within the Stenhouse board which culminated in the resignation of Mr Bert Houghton, a former chairman, last week because he believed the terms should be accepted. Reed also tells shareholders

Private producers attack Minister

Mr Norman Lamont, Minister of State for Industry, yesterday clashed with Britain's private sector steel industry over allegations that the Government was dragging its feet over the promised privatization of the British Steel Corporation. Mr Lamont was criticized at the annual lunch of the British Independent Steel Producers' Association by the president, Mr Peter Lee. Mr Lee said that apart from some welcome exceptions, the government had made little progress in returning the steel industry to private hands. He said that despite the understandable difficulties, the need for Britain to have a viable and efficient steel-producing industry, independent of public subsidy, was as vital as ever. "We believe that the failure of the Government to ensure that priority was being given to its stated policy has made the task more difficult and progress has been unnecessarily slow."

Steel sell-off 'going too slowly'

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Mr Lamont, who is representing the Government in the latest round of European Community talks aimed at

ICI sells stake in Vantona

ICI finally severed its connections with the textile industry yesterday by selling its entire stake in Vantona Viyella. The group is selling 7 million shares of the company at 148p each, amounting to just under 20 per cent of the total issued equity and valuing the entire stake at £10.36m. The shares are being placed with financial institutions by the merchant bank N. M. Rothschild and the broker Hoare & Covert. ICI obtained its shares in Vantona Viyella when Carrington Viyella, in which it owned a sizeable stake, merged with Mr David Alliance's Vantona earlier this year. Shares of ICI slipped 4p to 650p on the news, but later recovered in close only 2p down at 652p. The sale met with mixed reactions in the City, with observers expressing surprise at ICI's timing. It now looks as though the textile industry is starting to pull clear of the recession. Yesterday, Mr Alliance, chairman of Vantona Viyella, took the opportunity to forecast a leap in pre-tax profits for the present year from £4.3m to £11m. Mr Alliance said that he was pleased with ICI's decision to sell, having wanted it to place the stake. ICI says that one reason for selling now was to help improve the group's tax position as the financial year draws to a close. But the group was known to have been unhappy with its investment: it had supported the loss-making Carrington Viyella for years. Mr Alliance intends to take up 250,000 of the shares on offer. This is in addition to the shares he will be entitled to take up as Vantona's biggest shareholder.

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PROFIT UP 40% Interim dividend increased by 15%
Unaudited half year 30.10.83 £m 348.0
Unaudited half year 31.10.82 £m 319.4
Audited year to 15.83 £m 641.8
Turnover 348.0 319.4 641.8
Operating profit 35.3 28.6 52.0
Pre-tax profit 31.6 22.5 41.1
Dividend per share 1.73p 1.50p 4.66p
Earnings per share 7.7p 4.8p 9.4p
Extracts from the Directors' Interim Statement:
★ The Company has enjoyed a successful six months' trading
★ Turnover rose by 9%
★ Pre-tax profit increased by 40%
★ Beer sales helped by good summer... canned beer business continued to grow
★ Thistle Hotels operating profit up 90%
★ Borrowings continued to fall on rising investment programme
Copies of the full Interim Report may be obtained from the Secretary, Scottish & Newcastle Breweries plc, Abbey Brewery, Holyrood Road, Edinburgh EH8 8YS. Telephone: 031-556 2591

MARKET REPORT by Michael Clark

Trident shares tipped

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Dec 12. Dealings end, Dec 29. Contango Day, Dec 30. Settlement Day, Jan 9.

The decision of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission to block the proposed merger of Trident Television and Pleasurama earlier this week has not deterred everyone.

At least that is the view of broker Kitcat & Aitken, which is recommending the shares of Trident as a "buy" to its clients. Kitcat is confident that another bid for the group may be just around the corner and this time might receive the blessings of the Monopolies Commission. Kitcat refuses to name names, but the market has its own thoughts on the subject.

Top of the list Aspinall's - a client of Kitcat & Aitken - which yesterday announced it had increased its holding in Anglo-Scottish Investment with the purchase of an extra 1.48 million shares. This takes Aspinall's total stake to 4.78 million shares, about 15 per cent of the shares, and it is reckoned a full bid may soon follow.

Aspinall's, the Knightsbridge casino group previously jointly owned by zoo owner Mr John Aspinall and financier Sir

James Goldsmith, joined the Unlisted Securities Market in November raising almost £9m in the process. Last night shares of Trident closed unchanged at 118p valuing the company at £57m. Aspinall's refused to be drawn on the subject.

Broker Jacobson Townsley has been a big fan of shares of Saatchi & Saatchi following recent figures showing pretax profits last year doubled at £11.2m and regard them as outstanding value. For the present year JT is looking for pretax profits of £15m earnings of 30p selling on a P/E of 17. The shares rose 5p to 515p yesterday.

The rest of the equity market put up a solid performance despite the overnight setback on Wall Street and the low level of turnover which has affected the

market in the run up to Christmas. The FT Index having fluctuated in narrow limits throughout most of the day closed 1.7 up at 752.8.

Once again there was solid support for blue chips where US investors continue to take more than a passing interest. Imperial Chemical Industries has been a particular favourite and Wall Street investors now own around 15 per cent of the shares in the form of American depository receipts. But yesterday the shares slipped 2p to 65 1/2p as the group announced plans to sell off its entire 20 per cent stake in Vantona Vixella amounting to 7.1 million shares at 148p a share.

The star turn was again reserved for BOC Group following recent figures. The shares jumped 19p to a record 295p as American investors managed to pick up about 500,000 shares in a thin market.

Hefty gains were also seen in Hawker Siddeley 10p up at 358p, Plessey 5p at 237p and TI Group 8p at 164p.

There was late support for the pound on the foreign exchange and this was good news for gilt

Shares of consolidated Murchison, the South African antimony mining group, hit a second 65p in London yesterday - a rise of more than 120p in the past three weeks. Dealers report heavy support for the shares from the Cape and this is now talk of a bid of about £10 a share. At this level the group is valued at £41m.

greyhound racing stadiums in this country, spent 4p to a new high for the year of 47p on renewed support by two leading brokers. Reports suggest the group is about to strengthen the board still further and the name of Mr Jeffrey Sterling, of P & O and Town & City, has been put in the frame.

There are also suggestions that GRA may be on the verge of clinching a deal to sell-off some of its vast property portfolio to one of the big supermarket chains. Both GRA and Mr Sterling were unavailable for comment.

Among insurance brokers Mitsui Holdings rose 1p to 143p ahead of nine month figures due shortly. Analysts are looking for pretax profits of between £15m and £17m compared with the corresponding figure of £13m.

Moray Firth Makings, the scotch whisky group celebrated its start on the Unlisted Securities Market. Opening at 227p the shares later slipped to 217p, but by the close were still showing a premium of 22p - a new achievement for newcomers lately.

RECENT ISSUES

Table with columns: Issue Name, Price, Change, Yield, Dividend. Includes items like Aspinall Holdings, BP 25p Ord, etc.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, Yield, Dividend. Includes items like British Funds, SH4878, etc.

BRITISH FUNDS

Table with columns: Fund Name, Price, Change, Yield, Dividend. Includes items like British Funds, SH4878, etc.

MEDICINE

Table with columns: Fund Name, Price, Change, Yield, Dividend. Includes items like Medicine, SH4878, etc.

LONGS

Table with columns: Fund Name, Price, Change, Yield, Dividend. Includes items like Longs, SH4878, etc.

COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN

Table with columns: Fund Name, Price, Change, Yield, Dividend. Includes items like Commonwealth and Foreign, SH4878, etc.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Table with columns: Fund Name, Price, Change, Yield, Dividend. Includes items like Local Authorities, SH4878, etc.

BANKS AND DISCOUNTS

Table with columns: Fund Name, Price, Change, Yield, Dividend. Includes items like Banks and Discounts, SH4878, etc.

BREWERS AND DISTILLERS

Table with columns: Fund Name, Price, Change, Yield, Dividend. Includes items like Brewers and Distillers, SH4878, etc.

WATER AND INDUSTRIAL

Table with columns: Fund Name, Price, Change, Yield, Dividend. Includes items like Water and Industrial, SH4878, etc.

1983/84 High Low Company Price Chg % pence % P/E

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % pence, % P/E. Includes items like Aspinall Holdings, BP 25p Ord, etc.

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THE TIMES 1000

1983/84

The World's Top Companies Full statistical details and addresses: UK, Europe, USA, Japan, Hong Kong, Australia, Canada, Singapore, etc. From bookshops at £17.50 or £18.00 (inc. postage & packing) from Times Books Ltd., 18 Golden Square, London, W1.

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SHIPPING

Table with columns: Company, Price, Change, Yield, Dividend. Includes items like Shipping, SH4878, etc.

MINES

Table with columns: Company, Price, Change, Yield, Dividend. Includes items like Mines, SH4878, etc.

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

Table with columns: Company, Price, Change, Yield, Dividend. Includes items like Financial Trusts, SH4878, etc.

INSURANCE

Table with columns: Company, Price, Change, Yield, Dividend. Includes items like Insurance, SH4878, etc.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table with columns: Company, Price, Change, Yield, Dividend. Includes items like Investment Trusts, SH4878, etc.

PROPERTY

Table with columns: Company, Price, Change, Yield, Dividend. Includes items like Property, SH4878, etc.

PLANTATIONS

Table with columns: Company, Price, Change, Yield, Dividend. Includes items like Plantations, SH4878, etc.

MISCELLANEOUS

Table with columns: Company, Price, Change, Yield, Dividend. Includes items like Miscellaneous, SH4878, etc.

Large advertisement on the right side of the page, featuring 'Good the cre' and other promotional text.

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COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

Modern Engineers of Bristol: Six months to June 30, 1983. No interim dividend (same). Figures in £000: Turnover 4,631 (4,047). Trading profit 3 (loss 12). No tax (same). Loss attributable 157 (287). Loss per share 5.2p (7.4p). Company has secured important design and management contracts, which extend into 1986.

Dunne Investment Trust: Half-year to Nov 30, 1983. Interim 1.75p (1.6p) a share. Group gross revenue, £324,622 (£287,430). Net revenue, £153,264 (£119,096). Earnings per share 2.19p (1.7p). Net asset value per income share 52.31p (43.16p).

Albion Year to Sept 30, 1983. No dividend (same). Turnover £6,581m (£6,277m). Trading profit £80,950 (loss £748,160). Earnings per share 13p (loss 19.7p). Albion reports that current financial position has dramatically improved. Over the past year, the strengthening of the balance sheet has been the main priority.

Continous Stationery: Six months to Sept 30, 1983. Interim 0.45p (same). Turnover £1,141m (£1,103m). Profits before tax £160,017 (£227,113). Cooper Industries: Six months to Oct 31, 1983. Figures in £000: Turnover 9,344 (6,504). Pretax profit 207 (196 loss).

London Merchant Securities: Six months to Sept 30, 1983. Figures in £000: Net rental income from investment properties 5,207 (£5,020). Energy loss 360 (loss 371). Other trading activities profits 308 (28 profit). Profit before tax 3,551 (£3,834). Comparisons restated to give effect to the change in accounting policy. Interim payment raised from 0.5p to 0.6p.

Record first half at Unigate

Two rather lean years have been put behind by Unigate, the milk to transport company, with half-year profits and every sign that the balance sheet will be looking much stronger by the year-end.

The results are reassuring in the face of perpetual worries about Unigate's reliance on its dairy business and the liquid milk market in particular.

The threat from cheap UHT milk from Europe has probably been overestimated though it is likely to see some increases in its current market share of only 1 per cent. The slow changeover from doorstep deliveries of daily pints to sales through supermarkets could be more serious although Unigate has a higher proportion of shop sales than most other milk companies.

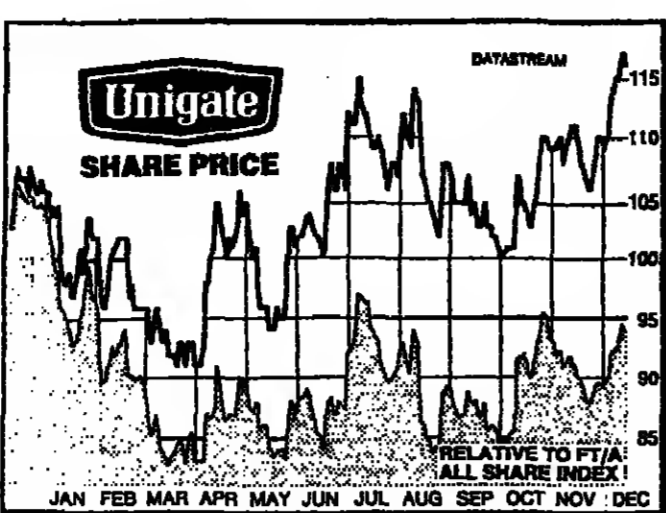
With a £4m increase in profits from the dairy side - which includes the St Ivel range - first-half profits increased from £1.5m to £23.6m right at the top of market expectations.

The results were helped by a big increase from Wincanton, the transport division, although the rise is masked by an accounting change for the interest charge. The underlying improvement is a rise from £2.8m to £4.0m.

Gillspur, the exhibitions business bought two years ago, benefited from the stronger economy.

Overseas, Unigate says it is pleased with the Casa Bonita fast food restaurants bought in the US: last year they contributed about £5m of the total overseas profits of £12.5m. The contribution is already ahead this year and should rise further.

Although short-term borrowings have doubled to over £60m, largely attributable to the US operations, they are offset by cash balances of over £56m. By the year-end cash flow should be neutral and positive



there is just a chance that after more than two years of stagnation, china clay prices might rise this year. Profits of more than £55m look possible.

A revaluation of group assets has thrown up a surplus of £67m, which will make the company a much bigger bite for the likes of Rio Tinto-Zinc, should the long-rumoured takeover bid ever materialize.

AE Guest, Keen & Nettlefolds will have to redo its sums if it wants to bid again for AE (the old Associated Engineering) when the Monopolies and Mergers Commission reports in March.

AE yesterday announced a significant turnaround in its fortunes last year. Pretax losses of £200,000 for the year ending September 1982 were turned into a £400,000 profit this year. But that does not do justice to its new strength. The company produced an operating profit of £14.2m on sales of £370m.

Mr John Collyear, the chairman, said: "The operating profit of the UK companies doubled in the second half, from £4.7m to £9.9m, and that trend has continued in the two months since then."

He said that the company would look at the £67m GKN bid, which lapsed on referral to the Commission in September, "as and when it comes up."

GKN has argued that the merger would have presented a "significant opportunity to restructure an important section of the UK automotive components industry to meet international competition". But Mr Collyear pointed to the international side of AE as being one of its strengths. The difficulties with loss-making South African subsidiaries had been largely overcome.

INVESTORS' NOTEBOOK

Hotels lead 200% rise in profits at Stakis

By Our Financial Staff

Pretax profits of Stakis, the hotels, casino and drinks company, rose last year by £2m to £6.4m. The company said that initial trading results for the current year indicated that there would be continued profit growth in 1983-84.

Turnover of the Glasgow-based group, which has recently expanded into the London hotel business, was up from £88m to £99.8m for the year to October, and trading profit was up from £6.4m to £8m.

The hotels and inns division was the main contributor to the profits rise, with trading profit of £4.3m against £3.2m, and the casinos division showed trading profits up from £2.2m to £2.7m. The wines and spirits business recorded a fall from £1.04m to £864,000.

The rise in the hotels and inns figure was helped by an exceptional item gain of £542,000, arising from the sale of properties (last year the comparable figure was £342,000), and insurance claims of £55,000. The dividend is being increased to 1.45p at the final stage, making 2p for the year against 1.70p.

The company said that the tax charge of £866,000 (£314,000) had been reduced by overprovisions for previous years of £280,000. The company had a £7.8m rights issue in January this year.

M&G Group, Britain's second largest unit trust company, has reported record profits - up 65 per cent - after a big upturn in the shares of high-yielding and recovery sectors in which it invests. Profits increased from £3.6m to more than £6m and the total dividend for the year has been increased by one-third to 20p. The results are the best so far from the quoted unit trust companies.

M&G's unit trusts also increased substantially in value from £374m to £1,243m which represents about 11.5 per cent of the total market. A similar rate of growth this year could allow M&G to overtake Save & Prosper, the market leader.

The results reflect the good year experienced by the unit trust industry with better market conditions in certain countries, such as Britain, the US and Japan. The better results come as much from the expansion of M&G's business as from the rise in most world stock markets. The figures were also helped by the forecast improvement in M&G's insurance business where profits increased from £200,000 to £328,000 and funds managed by the group rose from £263m to £377m.

Earnings per share increased by 55 per cent from 26.2p to 40.6p. Profits from M&G's own unit trusts increased from £2.2m to £4.1m. Profits from trusts administered for other people rose from £59,000 to £77,000. Net assets per share increased from 143p to 218p.

WALL STREET

New York (NYT)-Xerox is expanding its financial services business by acquiring Van Kampen Merritt, a privately-owned investment banking concern.

The deal is worth \$150m plus a contingent payment of as much as \$68m based on Van Kampen's earnings over the next three years.

The company, based in Naperville, Illinois, has a flourishing business in packaging tax exempt municipal bonds into long-term unit investments.

Investors took the news in their stride. Xerox's stock reached a 53-week high on Tuesday, closing at 50 3/4 up on a volume of nearly 1.3 million shares.

Table with columns for Dec 14, Dec 15, Dec 14, Dec 15. Lists various stocks and their prices.

Expansion pays off for M&G

By Jonathan Clare

M&G Group, Britain's second largest unit trust company, has reported record profits - up 65 per cent - after a big upturn in the shares of high-yielding and recovery sectors in which it invests.

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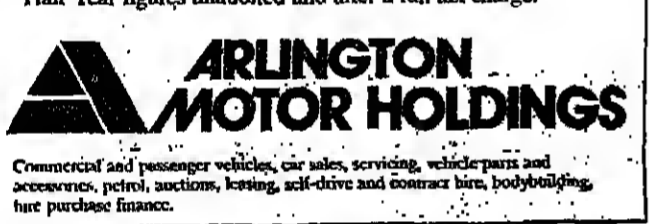
Earnings per share increased by 55 per cent from 26.2p to 40.6p. Profits from M&G's own unit trusts increased from £2.2m to £4.1m.

Profits from trusts administered for other people rose from £59,000 to £77,000. Net assets per share increased from 143p to 218p.

Interim Profits Doubled

Summary of Results for the half year to 28th September, 1983

Table with columns for Half Year* and Full Year. Rows include Turnover, Group Trading Profit, Profit before Tax, Dividend per share, and Earnings per share.



Commercial and passenger vehicles, car sales, servicing, wheel-pairs and accessories, petrol, auctions, leasing, self-drive and contract hire, bodybuilding, hire purchase finance.

COMMODITIES

Table of commodity prices including RUBBER, SUGAR, COCOA, COFFEE, GAS OIL, LONDON METAL EXCHANGE, LEAD, COPPER, ZINC, NICKEL, ALUMINIUM, SILVER LAUREL, and GOLD FUTURES MARKET.

Advertisement for The Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc. Features the bank's logo and the text 'Good progress towards the creation of one bank'.

"Good progress towards the creation of one bank" Sir Michael Herries, Chairman.

On 30 June 1983 we announced our decision to merge the businesses of The Royal Bank of Scotland and Williams & Glyn's Bank into The Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc, which we intend will take effect during September 1985. We are more than ever convinced that the full merger will produce significant benefits for the Group, with a branch coverage throughout Great Britain. Furthermore, both domestically and internationally we shall be a larger, stronger bank with a unified balance sheet.

Key figures table showing Year ended 30 Sept 1983 and 30 Sept 1982. Rows include Profit before taxation, Total assets, and Dividends per 25p ordinary share.

Results The improved results for the year reflect the impact of the growth of our business volumes and a widening of our interest margins despite the fall in the average base rate from 13.3 per cent in 1982 to 10.0 per cent in 1983. The results include a much better second half performance than anticipated earlier in the year. This has been due in the main to higher net interest earnings, better commission and fee income, a reduction in the bad and doubtful debt charge between the two halves and an increase in our share of profits from associated companies.

The Royal Bank of Scotland increased volumes of personal business in the domestic branches while, in Williams & Glyn's Bank, 'Free banking' for personal customers who maintain their current accounts in credit has proved very successful and

Copies of the 1983 Annual Report and Accounts may be obtained from the Assistant Secretary, The Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc, 36 St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YB.

London Grain Futures Market table with columns for Month, WHEAT, and BARLEY.

Triplex Year to 30.6.83 Pretax Loss £1.2m (£108,000) Turnover £9.8m (£12.2m) Net interim dividend None (same)

Wight Collins Rutherford Scott Half-year to 31.10.83 Pretax profit £204,000 (£121,000 loss) Stated earnings 302p Turnover £906m (£6.5m) Net interim dividend 1.25p

Shaw Carpents Half-year to 28.10.83 Pretax profit £722,000 (£142,000) Stated earnings 2.4p (0.5p) Turnover £20.3m (£18.5m) Net interim dividend 1p (nil)

Base Lending Rates

Table of base lending rates for various banks: ABN Bank, Barclays, BCCI, Citibank Savings, Consolidated Crds, Continental Trust, C. Hoare & Co, Lloyds Bank, Midland Bank, Nat Westminster, TSB, Williams & Glyn's.

Advertisement for BET (British Entertainment Television) showing various service areas: Consumer and Capital Electronics, Entertainment and Leisure, Printing and Publishing, Freight and Passenger Transport, Services to Industry, and Construction Related Activities.

"You are watching BET."

In our last Annual Report the Chairman predicted that pre-tax profits would climb well away from their plateau. Our results for the half-year to 30 September 1983 were as follows:

Table showing financial results for BET: Turnover £610,331,000 Up 9%, Pre-tax profit £31,769,000 Up 17%, Earnings per share 10.3p Up 18%, Dividend 2.25p Up 21%.

Also made progress in concentrating our resources into those service areas which we know and understand. For the future we continue to be a company "worth watching".

For a copy of the Interim Statement please write to Neil Ryder (Dept. T.T.I.), Situation House, Piccadilly, London W1X 6AS.

APPOINTMENTS

New chiefs at Banking Corporation

Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation: Mr William Purvis, at present executive director Banking, will succeed Mr P. E. Hammond as deputy chairman next May. Mr Robert Farrell, at present group staff controller, will join the board, also in May, as an executive director. Mr Hammond will retire at the ordinary yearly general meeting on May 8.

Martin The Newagent: Mr Bill Mitchell will join the board as personnel director from January 16.

Crescent Japan Investment Trust: Mr Ian Macdonald will join the boards of Crescent Japan and New Tokyo Investment Trust on January 1.

The English Association Trust: Mr James Cave will be a director from January 19. He will be in charge of the investment division and will be the managing director of The English Association Investment Management.

Maersk Company: Mr A. B. Marshall has been appointed vice-chairman.

Wells Fargo Bank: Mr Richard Borda, executive vice-president, has been made head of the Europe/Africa/Middle East division, headquartered in London. He succeeds Mr William Wright.

Save & Prosper Investment Management: Mr Chris Tracey is to be managing director.

Argyll Group: Following the completion of the merger of Argyll Foods and Amalgamated Distilled Products, Mr C. D. Smith will be group financial controller and company secretary and Mr P. A. Frendo group financial controller of Argyll Foods and finance director of Argyll Stores in place of Mr Smith. Mr J. P. Kinch is appointed assistant group company secretary of Argyll Group and company secretary of Argyll Foods and of Amalgamated Distilled Products.

National Bedding Federation: Mr Patrick Quigley has become chief executive.

Singer & Friedlander: Mr B. D. F. Mansfield has been appointed a managing director and Mr W. H. Wright a local director from January 1.

Opposition grows to the President's unwillingness to tackle the huge US deficit

The world waits for Reagan to defuse an economic time bomb



Martin Feldstein (left) and Robert Dole (centre): two vociferous critics of Reagan.

The United States budget deficit is at record levels, and is almost universally regarded by politicians and economists in Europe as the single most important barrier to sustained worldwide economic recovery. Influential critics both inside and outside the Reagan Administration are adding their voices to the criticism of Mr Reagan's economic policy. But 1984 is an election year, with Mr Reagan now having declared himself as a candidate. BAILEY MORRIS in Washington assesses the political climate for this crucial economic debate.

How long is too long to wait in correcting the crippling world effects of a huge United States budget deficit projected at \$200 billion and above for the next five years?

Four months ago, flushed with the success of recovery, no one in Washington was asking this provocative question. But in recent weeks, as concern has grown, the US deficit has come to be regarded as an economic time bomb which must be defused before it explodes.

But when? Can action by Congress and the Reagan Administration wait until after the elections in 1985 as the President has proposed? Increasingly, and in louder voices, a bi-partisan group of officials and economists has said no.

What is wrong with waiting until 1985 to take the politically unpopular step of raising taxes and cutting domestic programmes to reduce the deficit?

In the words of Mr Martin Feldstein, the President's outspoken economics adviser, the problem is this: "The longer you wait, the more difficult it is for the economy to absorb the kinds of changes in government spending and taxes.

Enacting the budget in 1985 rather than now would inevitably mean a slow phase-in of deficit reductions and, therefore, a more unbalanced recovery, Mr Feldstein said. This would lead to less capital formation, higher increases in the national debt and, eventually, higher interest rates.

It is precisely these fears which fuel the growing opposition among Republicans who

swept to victory during the last presidential elections on the promise of a balanced budget and sustained economic growth. Mr Robert Dole, the powerful chairman of the Senate finance committee, is prominent among them. Despite strong White

'Delaying reducing the budget will lead to a less balanced recovery'

House opposition, he held an unusual set of hearings last week to focus national attention on the threatened budget deficits.

"I regard the deficit as the most important domestic issue facing Congress and I fear there is a real danger of political stalemate in the coming year," Mr Dole said.

elsewhere, there is the perception that President Reagan is playing his political fiddle while the US economy burns. They note that in doing nothing, the President has repeatedly stated his belief that the deficit would go away in time as the recovery continues.

The President's critics fear that the recovery will go up in smoke if action is not taken now to reduce the deficits in 1986 and the years beyond.

They foresee a steady rise in the deficit to \$280 billion by fiscal 1989. Interest payments on this extra debt alone are estimated to be in the neighbourhood of \$30 bn - \$100 bn a year.

According to Mr Feldstein: "Just to finance that additional interest would require a tax increase at 1988 levels of 15-20 per cent on top of the personal income taxes which are already in place."

For these outspoken remarks, Mr Feldstein was very nearly

fired a fortnight ago by White House officials who ordered him to keep his views to himself in the months ahead.

But other equally prominent economists have taken up this cause.

Mrs Alice Rivlin, an econo-

Various efforts to cut the deficit are predicted to get nowhere

mist who recently stepped down as director of the Congressional Budget Office, said: "Waiting until 1985 to take action on the deficit entails the risk of having to wait until after the next recession. By 1985, growth will have slowed substantially and perhaps even turned negative."

Mrs Rivlin's successor, Mr Rudy Penner, a highly respected Republican economist with

strong ties to the Reagan administration, last week said more or less the same thing. According to Mr Penner: "The mathematics are in place for an explosion. The longer we wait the more serious the problem."

He estimated that the cost of financing the national debt will rise by \$56 billion between fiscal years 1982 and 1986, and would exceed substantially the level of standby tax increases proposed by President Reagan in his 1984 budget.

Despite these repeated warnings, both President Reagan and Mr Thomas O'Neill, the Democratic leader of the House, have opposed strongly the interim deficit reduction programmes proposed by both parties for 1984.

Mr Dole has proposed a deficit package which would reduce it by \$150 billion over four years through equal amounts of spending cuts and tax increases.

Earlier, a group of House Democrats tried and failed to build support for a programme of defence and social spending cuts coupled with tax increases for a total reduction of about \$250 billion. Similar deficit reduction efforts will be proposed again when Congress reconvenes in January. But already it is predicted they will not get anywhere.

Mr Dole said: "Without strong leadership from both President Reagan and Mr O'Neill neither those who favour budget cuts nor those who favour tax increases will budge."

The Administration, now hard at work on its 1985 budget, has said it has little interest in an interim compromise package to be enacted in 1984. The result of this stalemate is likely to be a growing loss of confidence in the Administration's commitment to reducing the huge structural deficit predicted up to 1989.

This is expected to have an immediate effect, translating into a slower recovery in the US which would have negative effects in Europe and elsewhere.

According to Mr Feldstein: "If we saw a resolution of the budget situation now, the confidence that would create would make it possible to live with large budget deficits in 1984 and 1985. If we do nothing now, and the confidence is not there, then the actual performance of the economy in 1984 and 1985 is going to be much worse."

BET profits up a sharp 17%

By Philip Robison

British Electric Traction, which takes in house building, newspapers, television and transport, yesterday reported a 17 per cent increase in pre-tax profits. It was the first significant increase for at least three years.

Announcing the figures, Mr Hugh Dundas, BET chairman, said: "In our last annual report I predicted that our pre-tax profits would start to climb away from their plateau."

For the six months to the end of last September group turnover rose 8 per cent to £610m on which pre-tax profits of £31.7m were earned against profits of £27m last time.

Profits were much in line with the predictions of market analysts and BET's price eased 1p to 26 1/2p. The price has risen this year from a low of 16 1/2p.

The sharp movement has been inspired by market expectations of a takeover bid since bidding for conglomerates looked like becoming fashion earlier this year.

Some analysts said yesterday that they did not believe BET

would become a takeover target, but the threat has awakened the company from a six-year sleep during which full-year profits fluctuated between £60m and £70m.

This year's opening-half performance implies full-year earnings of a record £80m. BET has raised the interim dividend by 21 per cent to 2.25p.

Most of the increased opening-half profit came from the group's construction interests where pre-tax profits rose from £1.5m to £7.3m.

Industrial services managed to push up profits from £7.2m to £7.9m, while BET's transport interests rose 26 per cent to £7.6m. However, in electronics, which includes BET's stake in Rediffusion, pre-tax profits fell by more than a fifth to £6.1m. Profits in publishing are unchanged at £1.9m and leisure sector profits increased by 26 per cent.

Last month, BET announced a £300m Wembley development in partnership with a specially formed consortium.

Market listing for McCarthy & Stone

By Jonathan Clare

McCarthy & Stone, the builder of sheltered housing for the elderly, is to get a full stock market listing 18 months after it made its debut on the Unlisted Securities Market. The company is also asking its shareholders for more than £12m to finance a big expansion plan during the current year.

Last year McCarthy, which enjoys a high stock market rating because of the lead it holds in its specialist market, increased its profits from £2.1m to £3.7m.

The better than expected results follow much higher sales than expected of its flats for the elderly. After selling 189 flats in the first half, sales accelerated sharply in the second half to 301, with a similar rate of growth expected this year. The growth is the result of increasing demand for this type of housing and of McCarthy's increased geographical coverage which is now almost nationwide.

The rights issue will reduce the stakes held by the McCarthy and Stone families from 76 per cent to 62 per cent. The cash is likely to be quickly eaten up by developments and gearing could be 90 per cent by the end of the year.

Sales of flats during the first three months of the current year totalled 195 compared with just 85 for the same period last time. The field is becoming more competitive with some of the big house builders like Barrat moving in but McCarthy ready to manage developments on their behalf.

It is also considering building nursing homes for the elderly which would accommodate old people who become too infirm to live in the standard flats.

The dividend has been increased from 2p to 3.5p. The yield is only 1.4 per cent with the shares down 5p at 36 1/2p. The terms of the rights issue are one to four at 30p.



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Trippier backs expansion fund... MAKE YOUR BUSINESS INVESTMENT... AFFILIATE... SINGAPORE AIRLINES

Trippier backs expansion fund

By Jonathan Clare

Mr David Trippier, the minister for small business, has given a powerful personal endorsement to a new community-based fund set up to pump cash into local businesses in North East Lancashire using the Business Expansion Scheme.

Mr Trippier said that the new fund, which is in his own constituency of Rossendale and Darwen, is the first fund to be set up in the spirit of the Chancellor's intentions when he announced the Business Expansion Scheme had so far been monopolised by the big funds. He hoped that by February there would be two or three more locally-based funds set up under the initiative of local enterprise agencies.

Since the Business Expansion Scheme was announced last March, 27 City-based funds have been set up to take advantage of the generous tax concessions it makes available. But many of these schemes have been criticised for the high management charges, the cost to the companies which use their cash and frequent demands for opinions over the shares and a seat on the board. The new fund, the Valleys of Enterprise Trust Fund (VET), is run by local businessmen who draw no salary for this work. Local firms are expected to contribute to invest £500,000 in local firms. Investors will pay no initial management charge, although there will be a half-yearly administration charge of one per cent.

The VET scheme has been set up jointly by the Rossendale Enterprise Trust and the Blackburn and District Enterprise Trust.

Mr Trippier also suggested that it might be possible to set up similar schemes in rural areas such as the South West, through the Council for Small Industries in Rural Areas (Cosira).

The VET scheme already has £250,000 promised and expects to be fully invested by April when the tax year ends. Individuals are expected to invest between £20,000 and £100,000.

Most of the big funds only consider investments in "big" small firms, unless they are particularly exciting "greenfield" projects which carry high risks and high rewards. They would not normally invest less than £100,000 which cuts off



Small retailers set for a fairer deal

By Derek Harris

There is good news this week for the small retailer who feels that he gets far less attention from government than the manufacturers who are in the minority among small businesses.

There are moves in the EEC which could go some way to shifting the balance in favour of the shopkeepers with a prospective impact in Britain as much as elsewhere in the Community. It comes as the British Government has indicated in its White Paper on regional policy that more help will now be channelled towards the services sector although how far this will be extended to retailing as such has yet to be clarified.

EEC financial aid programmes, which for the first time cover the service industries, including retailing.

There also appears to be a fair wind, with endorsement by the Council of Ministers still to come, for a code of conduct on small and medium-sized businesses which would lay an obligation on Brussels and national governments to make sure that policies do not actively harm small business operations.

The moves were welcomed as a long overdue shift of policies by Mr Douglas Herbison, secretary general of the European Confederation of Retailing, who is also manager of European operations for the Retail Consortium, trade body for more than 100 of Britain's retailers.

He was chairing this week in London the third of five regional conferences organised by the Consortium on problems of small and medium-sized retailers and EEC funded as part of the European Year of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises. He said: "Clearly the EEC is more aware now of the importance of helping small businesses and perhaps rather more than is the British Government."

One upshot of the five conferences will be an analysis of small retailers' problems and so far the list looks similar to that drawn up by the National Chamber of Trade (NCT), according to Mr Herbison. Disparity of discounts as between those commanded by big multiple grocery chains and the little man is one. Another is the need for vocational training schemes for the many going into retailing with no grasp of what they are taking on. More exemptions from Value Added Tax are widely called for.

High rents and the local authority rates based on them are one of the biggest problems,

Pressure to push up loan limit

Changes in the small firms loan guarantee scheme, including widening its scope more to medium-sized enterprises, are being called for by the Small Business Bureau, writes Derek Harris.

Michael Grylls, the Bureau chairman, who is Tory MP for Surrey North West, is pressing the case in the House of Commons, urging that the upper loan limit under the scheme should go from £75,000 to £250,000.

"This would allow medium-sized businesses with their greater capital needs to benefit from the scheme with the bonus that such companies because of their greater size would tend to generate more jobs than a smaller business," said Mr Grylls.

He is also urging that the 3 per cent premium charged on loans should be abolished. Under the scheme 80 per cent of a loan advanced by a



bank is guaranteed by the Government. The loan guarantee scheme is running on an experimental basis at present and a review is going on to decide its future beyond next May. The number of guarantees given under the scheme since June 1981 is now around 15,000 with well over £400m advanced.

British Institute of Management has put together an easy-to-understand guide to setting up in business. The approach is a nuts-and-bolts one covering all the key considerations from finance sources and marketing to accounting systems and taxation. It explains how to put together a business plan.

The guide comes as a pack with additional guidelines on where to get help and advice, with a series of checklists for detailed aspects of a new business. It costs £5.50 including postage.

Telling me I was ineligible for a MISC training course is the only favour the government has ever done for me.

Contact: Gillian Collingridge, British Institute of Management, Management House, Parker Street, London WC2B 5PT; telephone (01) 405 3456.

Merging of the Clothing and Knitwear Export Councils into a single body, the Clothing Export Council, has resulted in a

comprehensive service being offered to members on export sales and marketing. A buyer service is being specially strengthened.

Contact: Clothing Export Council, Assembly House, 26-28 Sackville Street, London W1X 2QT; telephone (01) 434 1881.

A successful 18-month pilot scheme in Huddersfield has prompted Armitage & Norton, one of the top 20 chartered accountants by fee income, to start extending a low-price "nursery" scheme for giving accountancy help to new small businesses. The Leeds-based accountants, with a nationwide network of offices, are extending the scheme to other outlets in the North East at Bradford, Dewsbury, Halifax, and Leeds. A further extension to other offices in the North West, Scotland, the Midlands and the South, is likely in the near future.

Until a business is established, when it reaches the stage of appointing a full-time accountant, all rates charged are at 0 discount. First consultations, often involving a day including visits, are free. The aim initially is to create a book-keeping system providing key management information tailored to the individual business.

The bank manager with a foot in the door

By Wayne Lintott

The problems of small businesses seeking to expand are legion but a straw poll of companies in the Unlisted Securities Market (USM) and merchant banks and venture capital advisers shows that the biggest cause of insolvency is under-capitalization at the time of the first phase of major expansion.

The other big problem is poor marketing research coupled with a 100-per cent dependency on a local clearing bank.

CPU Computers is a respected company within the USM market, having grown from a black bank account over the last ten years. Its principal business is the distribution of computer components but it has recently begun manufacturing its own business computer.

In the last financial year turnover reached £20m and pre-tax profits rose 56 per cent to £1.35m. Some time over the next financial year the company intends seeking a full stock market listing.

Mr Tom Fitzpatrick, is joint chairman and co-founder, and the thought of reflecting back



Tom Fitzpatrick: the way to find the money

never his initial problems causes a wry smile. "In year one we had trouble getting any form of bank support at all. We were offered overdraft facilities of £3,000 rising to £5,000 if we both put our houses up as security. I can't repeat our reply to a family newspaper."

So Mr Fitzpatrick took the opposite tack. "Our solution was to write out a business plan showing our ideas, where we wanted to go, how much it would cost and our overdraft need of £15,000. Then we just walked round every clearing bank branch in Woking, Surrey, until we found a NatWest manager prepared to support us. In the end we didn't use it, but it gave the necessary credit references for our suppliers. Once we had that and opened it

building up the administrative structure to support the expansion. Once again from money earned, not money borrowed.

Of the forms of financing available to the company, James Hay chose equity rather than bank loans. Having done that, they have similarly prepared a three-year plan that is flexible enough to allow for delays on receivables.

"You know what the minimum receivables are going to be and, no matter what you hope for, you have to work on that figure and no other," Mr Bevan said.

Mr Charles Duff, a director at Venture Founders, whose £12m fund for new start-ups and pure greenfield projects was recently launched, stressed the importance of a business plan and defining a narrow market in which to operate.

His company has a client that entered into a dramatic expansion and rapidly became insolvent. The rescue money amounted to £2m. Luckily, that company had Venture behind it and the money was raised from City institutions with the necessary management back-up hired.

But that is a rare occurrence. All too often a company will be able in the round to get off the ground only to find that the second tranche of much needed cash is either difficult to get or comes with too many strings.

Next Week looks at the dos and don'ts of presenting a

business plan to the bank manager.

Since then the company has made the choice out to expand meteorically with the market. He offers two pieces of advice.

The first: don't grow on borrowed money. The second: build up the staff and infrastructure on money already earned and don't buy in staff on what you might achieve.

"Everyone goes on about cash flow management. But the reality is that that is the only way in do it successfully. Once you are indebted in the local bank manager, the internal pressures are enormous. The man never has his foot out of the door," he said.

Much the same problem faces James Hay Pension Trustees. They run a private company whose shares are currently being placed by stockbrokers Scriplogor, Kemp-Gee to its private clients.

Since the Government recently allowed self-administered company pension funds to invest 50 per cent in the business, plant and offices, demand has really rocketed.

Mr John Bevan, the chairman, says his company's problem was out so much money as the internal infrastructure to support the expansion. "After we moved up in London (from Cardiff) we found ourselves getting involved in all kinds of projects for our clients. BES schemes, joint-developments and the like until one day we discovered we just weren't meeting our targets for new business."

Why small businesses don't grow into big businesses

First priority for the Small Business Research Trust, which was formally launched this week with backing among others from the Bank of England, will be investigating the size, shape and performance of the small business sector, Derek Harris writes.

"There just is not enough information available to allow small businesses or to allow evaluation of the effectiveness of measures that are intended to revitalise the sector," says Bert Nicholson, the Trust's research secretary.

The Trust has been getting into its stride since March with backing also from Bass, National Westminster Bank, funding is £150,000 and it is already supporting a pilot survey in Scotland.

The Trust earned a stamp of approval from Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, when he made the formal launch this week; the research should help the Government as well as business

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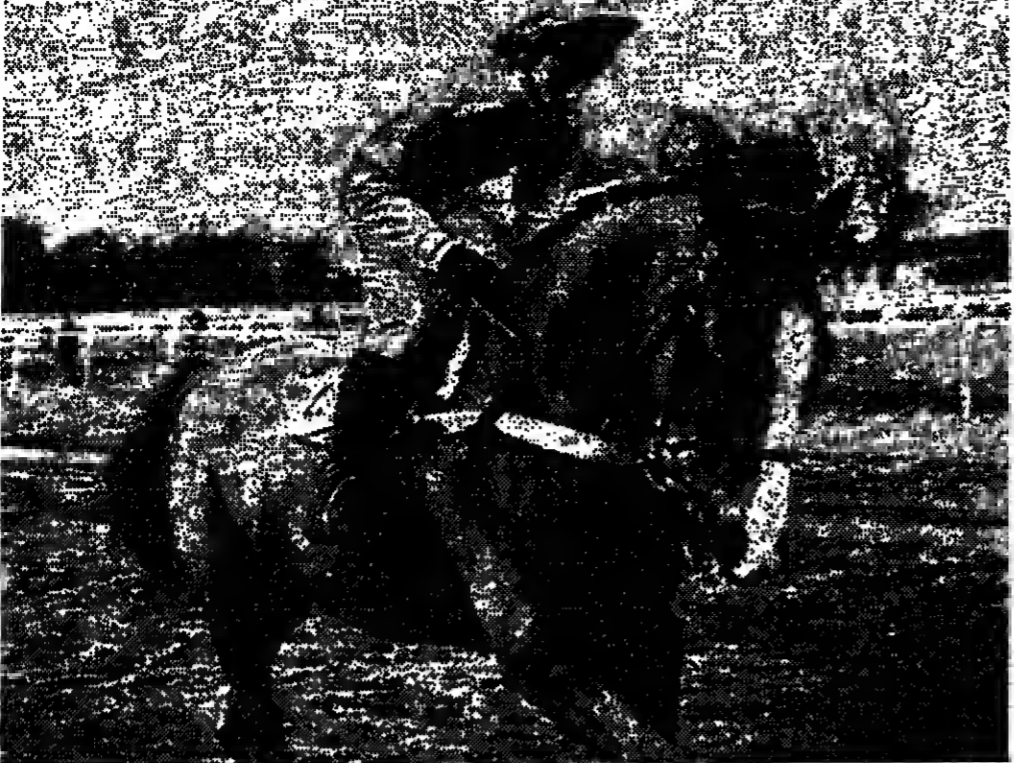
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RACING: GRAND NATIONAL WINNER LOOKS AS GOOD AS EVER IN HAYDOCK COMEBACK

Corbiere is so pleasing in defeat

By Michael Phillips, Racing Correspondent

Corbiere, this year's Grand National winner, did not make a triumphant return in the Burnley Handicap Steeplechase at Haydock Park yesterday, but anybody seeing his trainer...



John Francombe and Corbiere get together for the first time at Haydock yesterday

Commenting on the race afterwards, he said: "training him on the firm ground at home has been difficult this autumn. The object was to come here and get a good run into him without anything going wrong on the day."

John Francombe and Corbiere get together for the first time at Haydock yesterday. Willie Carson, the champion Flat jockey, paid Haydock a visit to see his son, Anthony, aged 20, have his first ride in the Beches Farm Handicap Steeplechase.

Deputising for Corbiere's regular rider, Ben de Haan, who was injured in a fall at Nottingham last Saturday, the champion jockey, John Francombe, said that he too was pleased with the feel that Corbiere had given him, considering that it was a slippery afternoon of heavy rain.

At Sandown, Bright Oasis would have met Cardinal Flower who has two victories over today's course and distance to his name. Now, he also meets Palatinato who beat him at Cheltenham in November. But Bright Oasis did not wear blinkers on that occasion and Bailey regrets not putting them on him then, bearing in mind that he excelled two seasons ago when wearing them.

Evergreen Even Melody lingers on

Even Melody showed that at 14 he is as sprightly as ever by winning the Christmas Tree Handicap Chase at Southwell yesterday. After the old horse had come off a long lay-off from Fox-Cockade, trainer, Neville Crum, said: "I wish I had his guts - I don't know who it is the rider, him or me."

Jockey Club clear trainers

Two trainers, Bill Preece and Roy Whiston, were cleared at a Jockey Club inquiry yesterday into positive doping tests on their horses, Crowcopper and Fly More. Urine samples from Preece's Crowcopper and Whiston's Fly More were both found to contain theobromine, as well as in the case of Fly More, caffeine and theophylline.

Seeking comfort for the punters

You can say what you like about democracy, but it still strikes me as incongruous to find yourself exchanging views about going down to the betting shop when you are talking to a Tory baronet. Somehow, the Right Honourable Sir Ian Howard John Little Gilmore M.P. doesn't seem to go with a M.P. Yankee.

Sir Ian, it must be said, finds nothing odd in this juxtaposition and his backing of what he calls a "small, but useful and generally beneficial reform". He is introducing a private member's bill, which, if passed, could in the end make your average High Street betting shop a little less like the Lubyanka. "It is a kind of nineteenth century way of thinking, the idea that says if you must have legal gambling, then it must take place in the maximum possible discomfort."

The Betting and Gaming act of 1963 brought off-course betting out of the closet of illegality, but nervous about corrupting a nation, betting shops were hedged against with respect to advertising. No signs, no telly, no seats, no refreshment - above all, nothing that could possibly be construed as "entertainment".

The interior of betting shops are decorated with a stark, bleak minimalism, like a Zen rock garden. The law insists that they are uncomfortable places to be in - just that one might sit down many a punter from improving a shining hour or two with a quiet series of investments, watching the rise and fall in the betting market relayed from the course, scanning the pinned-up form in Sporting Life, exchanging views.

To sit down and watch a race on the telly with a cup of coffee seems a small thing, especially when, with the dawn of cable television, there is more opportunity than ever for the punter to see what colour horse he has backed, but the law says this is simply not on. Sir Ian has been known to have the odd bet himself. "If you are well off, you have an account with a bookmaker, and you telephone your bet over, and then watch the race in comfort on your television at home. Others are not so fortunate, and I think this is unjustly unreasonable."

Britain qualify by smallest margin

From Sydney Friskin, Hongkong
Great Britain 5
China 0

Britain qualified for the semi-finals of the 10 nations tournament yesterday with a decisive victory over China. Levels with Malaysia on points and goal difference, Britain won the right to play Australia tomorrow night for a place in the final by virtue of having scored more goals than Malaysia. The other semi-final will be between Pakistan and India.

England will play West Germany, Ireland, France and Spain in pool A in the first qualifying round of the European Cup in Lille, France, from May 3 to 13 next year. In pool A, Scotland, Netherlands, Belgium, the Soviet Union and Austria. Meanwhile, England have accepted an invitation from the Australian Women's Hockey Association to take part in their Seventy-fifth anniversary celebration in September at the Middlesbrough County ground yet to be built. Herefordshire are second in the East table. It is possible that these teams might meet in the county championship finals in February.

Germany in pool

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Doncaster

- 12.30 LOTTERY CHASE (Selling; Handicap: £1,257; 2m 150yds) (10 runners)
1. 204-979 BOWSHOTT (D) (Dewey) P Parkers 8-12-4 Mr O Williams
2. 204-979 BOWSHOTT (D) (Dewey) P Parkers 8-12-4 Mr O Williams
3. 204-979 BOWSHOTT (D) (Dewey) P Parkers 8-12-4 Mr O Williams

Haydock results

- 1.30 HINLEY GREEN HURDLE (novices) (11 runners)
1. 212-221 PATRICK (D) (Dewey) P Parkers 8-12-4 Mr O Williams
2. 212-221 PATRICK (D) (Dewey) P Parkers 8-12-4 Mr O Williams
3. 212-221 PATRICK (D) (Dewey) P Parkers 8-12-4 Mr O Williams

Doncaster selections

- 12.30 Only Money, 1.0 Maid of Milan, 1.30 W Six Times, 2.0 Bright Oasis, 2.30 Hopetill Saint, 3.0 Isaac Newton.
1.30 HINLEY GREEN HURDLE (novices) (11 runners)
1. 212-221 PATRICK (D) (Dewey) P Parkers 8-12-4 Mr O Williams

Southwell

- 11.45 CHRISTMAS PUDDING CHASE (handicap) (11 runners)
1. 212-221 PATRICK (D) (Dewey) P Parkers 8-12-4 Mr O Williams
2. 212-221 PATRICK (D) (Dewey) P Parkers 8-12-4 Mr O Williams

HOCKEY

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RUGBY LEAGUE

On the flat and disastrous Great Britain tour of Australasia in 1979, the outstanding forward, and one of the few Great Britain players to enhance his reputation, was Trevor Skerrett. The international selector have long remembered yesterday Skerrett was named as the captain for the 1984 tour of Australasia.

ATHLETICS

It may not be evident to athletes following a succession of Olympic, Commonwealth, European and world championship medals, that the biggest problems facing British athletics nowadays are the lack of indoor facilities and some encouragement for school leavers to stay in the sport. A scheme launched yesterday by Neil Macfarlane, the Minister for Sport, and sponsored by Sanyal Venning Ltd, providing £250,000 in the next three years, could go some way to plugging these gaps.

Fakenham

- 4.5 COTTSMORE CHASE (novices; 2874; 2m 2f 110yds) (13 runners)
1. 04-010 LORDIT (R) (Ramsden) D Davis 8-11-4 S Smith
2. 04-010 LORDIT (R) (Ramsden) D Davis 8-11-4 S Smith
3. 04-010 LORDIT (R) (Ramsden) D Davis 8-11-4 S Smith

Haydock results

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BOXING

Writers' award for McGuigan
Barry McGuigan (right), aged 22, the British and European featherweight champion, has won the best overall performance award at the annual poll of the Boxing Writers' Club. He will be presented with his trophy in London on January 18.

TENNIS

Masters caps men's tour
The LTA men's satellite tour, which will run for five weeks, beginning on Monday January 30, will start and finish at the Matchpoint Centre, Bramhall, Cheshire. After the first week, the players will move on to Telford, home of the closing event of the current LTA women's satellite circuit. The third tournament in the series will take place at the new centre at Peterborough, and the fourth at the Ace Centre, Coventry.

Nystrom's reminder

(Sydney) (Reuters) - With Sweden and Australia due to announce their teams today for the Davis Cup final, which begins on December 20, Nystrom has announced his intention to play in the quarter-final of the New South Wales open tournament yesterday. The Swede, aged, defeated the second seed, Tomas Sand, and Anders Jarryd, his rival for the Swedish singles place behind Mats Wilander, had an expected win over Miloslav Mecir.

Various advertisements including 'ROVER', 'SALE', 'MOTOR CAR', and 'SELLING'.

مكتبة من الاصل

Anger over blocking of EEC rebate

Continued from page 1
this before December 31, although he might agree to a delay until the end of next month if the council asks him to negotiate further on the terms.

As far as the Council is concerned, the budget is illegal for at least four reasons. Mr Adams, Georgia, the Greek Minister currently chairing the budget council, said after the vote that there were political and legal problems ahead.

The political one was the result of blocking the British rebate; the legal one derived from the way in which Parliament had unilaterally increased its powers over part of the budget and had reclassified some categories of spending in a way which the council believed was wrong.

Member states will have to decide in the next couple of weeks whether or not to take the parliament to court. If they fail to do so Britain could still go ahead on its own, but such a process would be very long and would be difficult for the case to get anywhere before the arch deadline.

Yesterday's Commons exchanges were at one point laced to a match of resolutions, with Mr Kinnoch accusing Mrs Thatcher of "huffing and puffing" and the Prime Minister replying that she could not compete with the Labour leader on that score.

Foreign Office reaction: The Foreign Office said in a statement: "We deplore this discriminatory action by the European Parliament. It runs completely counter to the Parliament's own resolution in October not to discriminate against any member state."

The Parliament brings discredit on itself by taking action against two member states for the failure of the Community as a whole to reach agreement at Athens, particularly since we have been pressing for many of the reforms which the Parliament itself called for in the report resolution. To freeze Britain's rebate by putting it into reserve chapter 100 will not help to resolve the Community's problems.

Such actions by Parliament will only make an already difficult situation even worse, and will risk distracting attention from the management negotiations which should be given first priority over the next few months."

Carson junior takes a tumble



Tony Carson on Brockley Belle and, seconds later, on the ground as father looks on.



Carrying his son's helmet, Willie Carson sees the stretcher into the ambulance.

Willie Carson, the champion jockey with more than 2,000 wins to his credit, watched proudly yesterday as his son set off in his first public race at Haydock Park racecourse.

Seconds later, his pride changed to disappointment as Tony Carson, aged 20, fell badly at the second fence, in the Beches Farm Conditional Jockeys' Handicap Hurdle.

He crashed to the ground and lay grimacing with pain for several minutes before he was put on a stretcher and taken away in the course ambulance.

His father, who had been watching from the stands, went to comfort his son at St Helen's general hospital, where he was treated for severe bruising and later discharged.

The fall is the second piece of bad luck for Tony Carson. He should have had his first ride five weeks ago at Hatfield, but the horse he was to have ridden was held up in traffic and failed to arrive in time to register.

Battleship bombards Lebanese militias

Continued from page 1
the United States with its fighting spirit".

LONDON: Mr Michael Heseltine, the Defence Secretary, took the unusual step of telephoning Mr Walid Jumblatt, leader of the Druze militia, to protest about artillery fire which landed near the British headquarters (Rodney Cowton writes).

He said on BBC radio that he had been at 10 Downing Street with the Prime Minister on Wednesday when the news came through.

Mr Heseltine said Mr Jumblatt had assured him "that he would do everything possible to ensure the safety of our people".

ATHENS: Greece announced that, after obtaining adequate assurances of safe passage, it had authorized five ships to sail for Tripoli today to evacuate the 4,000 Palestinians loyal to Mr Yassir Arafat trapped there (Mario Modiano writes).

Gemayel in London and journalists under US fire, page 7

Clash of Soviet chess titans draws nearer

Continued from page 1
play Korchin's own openings against him.

He is a much more aggressive player than Karpov, whose positions are more tranquil. He has been magnificent as a world champion, and will be hard to beat.

Alexander Roshal, chess correspondent of Moscow Radio and the magazine Soviet Sport: It has become clear that Kasparov has become no weaker than Korchin in the endgame. It is now apparent that, apart from experience, Korchin has no advantage.

His disappointed father said yesterday: "I was mentally upsideways with Tony during the race."

Dr F. Lennan, the course medical officer, added: "Tony is in some pain, but in good spirits. It is nothing terrible." The fall was also seen by Tony's mother, Carol.

Frank Johnson in the Commons The Princess of wails

Mr Donald Dixon, the Labour member for Jarrow, contemptuously inquired of the Prime Minister yesterday whether she recalled her speech at Swansea three years ago when she advised the unemployed "to be mobile".

Mrs Thatcher replied to the effect that the employment situation was improving in Swansea. By his demeanour as she was speaking, it was apparent that Mr Dixon was dissatisfied with this reply on the ground that his constituency was Jarrow, not Swansea.

Mr Dixon, a man who places little emphasis on mere charm, looked as if he could be the member for Swansea or Jarrow or indeed most other places.

Perhaps she might have had second thoughts had she originally been under the impression that he was the member for Frinton-on-Sea or the Dean of Peterhouse or chaplain to the Queen Mother. But, despite his protests, or perhaps she could not hear them above the usual question time hubbub, she persisted in regarding him as the member for Swansea.

There has been an enterprise zone created in Swansea which is one of the successful enterprise zones... she intoned. "Jarrow", Mr Dixon protested, "is not a draw more industry into the area."

continued the Prime Minister, wisely adhering to her first assessment that she was dealing with a man from Swansea.

Mr Dixon fidgeted and waved his order paper in dismay. Perhaps his dismay was caused by the sheer injustice of a social system which regards the problems of Jarrow as best solved by new enterprise zones in Swansea.

"Swansea has been one area which has been successful in getting inward investment for this country because we are a member of the European Community," she obliviously continued. Above all, she was no doubt confident that there would be no need for another Swansea Hunger March.

Mr Dixon would not have been justified in regarding the Prime Minister's reply as inappropriate. For in that speech at Swansea three years ago she did advise the unemployed to be more mobile. She was perhaps assuming that some of them had now reached Swansea. So Mrs Thatcher resumed her seat, having answered the question to her own satisfaction.

Mr Dixon continued to look disapproving. But it is misunderstandings such as these which make British Prime Minister's questions the envy of the world. On the other hand, it was possible that she knew all along that Mr Dixon came from Jarrow, but had decided to proceed on the assumption that he came from Swansea.

This sort of thing happens all the time in the plays of Mr Harold Pinter. A similar situation arises in *Brideshead Revisited* when Charles Ryder's father, throughout dinner, treats Charles' friend as an American even though he is perfectly well aware that the friend is as English as Charles or himself. For an unexpected element of whimsy was entering into Mrs Thatcher yesterday.

A Liberal, Mr Malcolm Bruce, protested that the Government Chief Whip and other Government whips had gone into a division lobby in the previous night to haul out Tory MPs who were in danger of dividing the wrong way in a complicated plot to vote a Social Democrat off some new select committee on defence.

"Whatever the Chief Whip did I am absolutely sure it was absolutely right," she replied, with a surprising lightness of touch and a smile.

Whereupon, Dr David Owen embarked on an immense intervention which took up several minutes of question time. Mr Dennis Skinner, the Labour Member for Bolsover, heckled him.

"There is a disease for which there is no known cure," Dr Owen observed, "and that is what the hon member for Bolsover suffers from: verbal diarrhoea."

Dr Owen went on. He accused Mrs Thatcher of grave abuse, and of making a joke.

"I know we are getting close to Christmas," observed the Speaker, in connection with nothing in particular, except Christmas: Mrs Thatcher does not restore until the subject of the House got onto the subject of glauc sniffing. Dr Owen walked out. Mr Skinner left in search of a second opinion.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Music: Piano recital by Richard Simon, David's Hall, Cardiff, 1.10. Christmas concert by the Choir of Bangor Cathedral, Great Hall, Carbyna Castle, Bangor, Gwynedd, 7.30. Handel's *Messiah*, by City of Birmingham Choir, Town Hall, Birmingham, 7.30. Halle Orchestra Concert, Royal Albert Hall, Theatre Square, Nottingham, 7.30.

Carol Services

County Council Christmas Service, St. Ann's Church, Manchester, 11. Festival of Carols, by Morrison Tabernacle Choir, with audience participation, St. David's Hall, Cardiff, 7.30.

Exhibitions in progress

The Art of Craft: an exhibition of craftwork at Newport Museum and Art Gallery, John Frost Square, Newport, Gwent, Mon to Fri 10 to 5.30, Sat 9.30 to 4, closed Sun (ends Feb 4). The Nude - Approaches Through Drawing, Herbert Art Gallery, Jordan Well, Coventry; Mon to Sat 10 to 5.30, Sun 2 to 5 (ends Jan 22).

Food prices

The all-important decision on what meat to have for Christmas is not made any easier for shoppers by the very fact that there is such a wide choice. If the choice is goose or game, it is to be fresh or frozen? It is important to order fresh birds in good time so as to ensure the correct weight for Christmas catering.

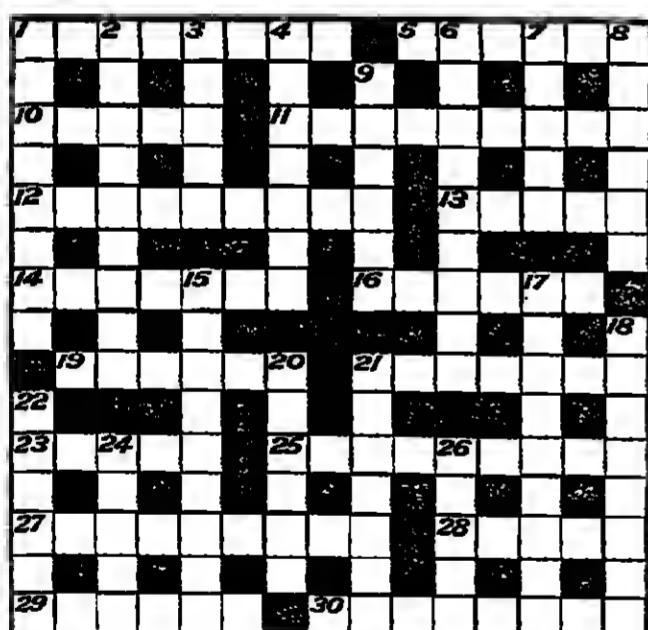
Roads

Midlands: A1: Contraflow southbound north of Normans Cross, Cambridgeshire. A6: Traffic signals at Belper, Derbyshire. A635: Contraflow on Birmingham - Redditch Road at Portway.

Weather forecast

Pressure will be low in the SW with troughs of low pressure crossing many parts. 6am to midnight: London: SE, E, NE England, East Angles: Rain soon clearing, some clear intervals, but further rain in places tomorrow, wind backing SE, moderate increasing fresh, locally gale; max temp 7 to 8C (45 to 46F).

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,311



- ACROSS: 1 No obstacles in this course that Alfred's about to follow (4-4). 5 Eight days a month on the road (6). 10 Last of the forty about to crack up (5). 15 Careless braves, not watchful (9). 18 Fluid's warm and red (9). 19 A deer's back leg, in part (5). 21 One very rich sacrosanct mixture (7). 22 Wait around, the French are not poisonous (6). 23 Numberless dairymen include it in their returns (6). 24 Go back right back, Osegin (7). 25 Put out powdered tobacco (5). 27 Lying version foals head (9). 28 Begin to speak after swallowing one drink (9). 29 African master or bachelor of arts, faint-hearted (5). 30 Go outside to dine, by agreement (6). 31 Disclosed Elizabeth was radiant (8).

Holiday openings

The London Tourist Board have listed the following open on Boxing Day: The Barbican Art Gallery, Chessington Zoo, London Zoo, Natural History Museum, Victoria and Albert Museum, British Museum, British Library, Hayward Gallery, Imperial War Museum, National Gallery, National Portrait Gallery, RAF Museum, Science Museum, Tate Gallery, The Wallace Collection, The Warburg Institute, The Whitcomb Art Gallery, The Wallace Collection, The Wallace Collection, The Wallace Collection.

Anniversaries

Births: Catherine of Aragon, first wife of Henry VIII, Alcalá de Henares, Spain, 1485; Jane Austen, Steventon, Hampshire, 1775; Zoltan Kodaly, Kecskemet, Hungary, 1882; Sir Noel Coward, Teddington, Middlesex, 1899; Deaths: Richard Bright, physician, London, 1858; Camille Saint-Saëns, Algiers, 1921.

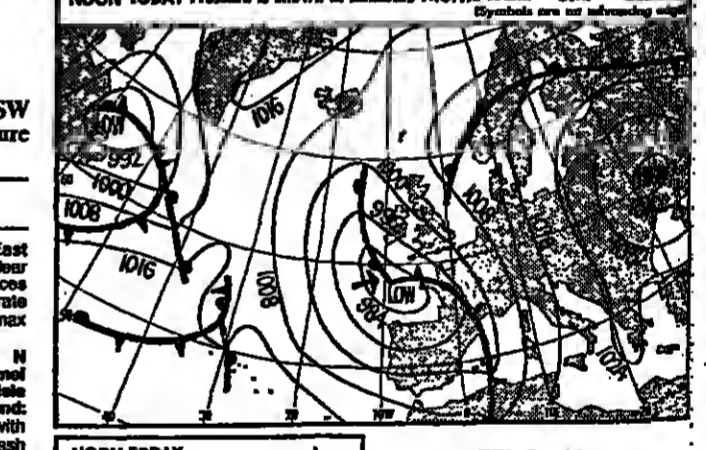
Top films

- 1 The Jungle Book/Mickey's Christmas Carol
- 2 The Untouchables
- 3 The Untouchables
- 4 The Untouchables
- 5 The Untouchables
- 6 The Untouchables
- 7 The Untouchables
- 8 The Untouchables
- 9 The Untouchables
- 10 The Untouchables

Top video rentals

- 1 Raiders of the Lost Ark (CIC)
- 2 48 Hours (CIC)
- 3 The Untouchables (CIC)
- 4 The Untouchables (CIC)
- 5 The Untouchables (CIC)
- 6 The Untouchables (CIC)
- 7 The Untouchables (CIC)
- 8 The Untouchables (CIC)
- 9 The Untouchables (CIC)
- 10 The Untouchables (CIC)

NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millions FRONTS Warm Cold



High tides

Location	Time	Height
London Bridge	10.38	10.11
Aberdeen	10.44	10.11
Abermouth	10.43	10.11
Belfast	10.41	10.11
Cardiff	10.40	10.11
Cardport	10.39	10.11
Dover	10.38	10.11
Falmouth	10.37	10.11
Glasgow	10.36	10.11
Hull	10.35	10.11
Harwich	10.34	10.11
Holyhead	10.33	10.11
London	10.32	10.11
Lyons	10.31	10.11
London	10.30	10.11
London	10.29	10.11
London	10.28	10.11
London	10.27	10.11
London	10.26	10.11
London	10.25	10.11
London	10.24	10.11
London	10.23	10.11
London	10.22	10.11
London	10.21	10.11
London	10.20	10.11
London	10.19	10.11
London	10.18	10.11
London	10.17	10.11
London	10.16	10.11
London	10.15	10.11
London	10.14	10.11
London	10.13	10.11
London	10.12	10.11
London	10.11	10.11
London	10.10	10.11
London	10.09	10.11
London	10.08	10.11
London	10.07	10.11
London	10.06	10.11
London	10.05	10.11
London	10.04	10.11
London	10.03	10.11
London	10.02	10.11
London	10.01	10.11

Around Britain

City	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Birmingham	10.3	10.3	10.3
Bristol	10.3	10.3	10.3
Cardiff	10.3	10.3	10.3
Edinburgh	10.3	10.3	10.3
Glasgow	10.3	10.3	10.3
London	10.3	10.3	10.3
Manchester	10.3	10.3	10.3
Newcastle	10.3	10.3	10.3
Nottingham	10.3	10.3	10.3
Sheffield	10.3	10.3	10.3
Southampton	10.3	10.3	10.3
Stirling	10.3	10.3	10.3
Swansea	10.3	10.3	10.3
Torquay	10.3	10.3	10.3
Wolverhampton	10.3	10.3	10.3
Wrexham	10.3	10.3	10.3

Abroad

City	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Algeria	10.3	10.3	10.3
Amman	10.3	10.3	10.3
Beirut	10.3	10.3	10.3
Bombay	10.3	10.3	10.3
Buenos Aires	10.3	10.3	10.3
Calcutta	10.3	10.3	10.3
Cairo	10.3	10.3	10.3
Colon	10.3	10.3	10.3
Hong Kong	10.3	10.3	10.3
London	10.3	10.3	10.3
Madras	10.3	10.3	10.3
Manila	10.3	10.3	10.3
Medan	10.3	10.3	10.3
Mumbai	10.3	10.3	10.3
Perth	10.3	10.3	10.3
Rangoon	10.3	10.3	10.3
Seoul	10.3	10.3	10.3
Singapore	10.3	10.3	10.3
Tokyo	10.3	10.3	10.3
Yokohama	10.3	10.3	10.3

THE PAPERS

The New York Times says that if the United States runs Grenada's security system and acts as a political cop with limited accountability indefinitely, "that's a recipe for trouble". The objective now should be to hand over security powers as soon as possible to Grenadians and what rulers they may need from a 331-member, six-nation Caribbean contingent being trained by American military policemen. As long as Americans remain in Grenada, they need to be reminded of the complex disregard for fundamental rights shown in the early days of the occupation. Of 1,200 persons initially detained, 48 are still being held without charges or prospect of trial. Ten of the overthrown leaders, Hudson Austin and Bernard Coard, were manacled and blindfolded, contrary to accepted practices in treating prisoners of war. Writers depicting their brutality were persecuted everywhere by a Psychological Operations Unit of the US Army, in dismal emulation of the Iranians, who blindfolded and paraded American diplomats in Teheran. In this vacuum American MPs have been questioning Grenadians and foreigners about political beliefs, conducting warrantless searches, detaining suspected troublemakers and warning others about anti-government activities. "Are these the lessons they came to give?" the paper asks.

مكتبة من الأصل